Daily Report

Latin America

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Forum on Regional Cooperation Opens in Jamaica

FL2501201290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1818 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 25, CANA—A forum on regional co-operation worldwide has opened in Jamaica, with declining aid flows and the establishment of a single European Market listed among challenges facing developing countries. The forum being attended by representatives of regional bodies in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, is jointly sponsored by the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Community (Caricom), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC).

Speakers at the opening ceremony noted the challenges which developing countries will face in the nineties and lamented the fact that their economies will be unable to adequately deal with them. CDB president, Neville Nicholls, listed these challenges as the foreign debt and its debilitating effect, declining aid flows to the region, establishment of a single European market, environmental issues and technological development. Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley said that the only path to survival in the changing global economy was through self-reliance. The Caribbean region, he said, faced four major challenges. These were to diversify the productive base, to increase exports, to increase food self-sufficiency, and to "massively" increase investment in human resource development.

This latter challenge was the most important, as without it the others could not be realised, Manley said. That investment, he added, must have a scientific bias and have a strong technical orientation. Caribbean societies, he said, must become computer literate and develop their own research capability. Regional integration, Manley said, was the first logical response to a globalised economy. "We in the political process can either retard the inevitable by being wanting in vision or make it happen effectively and quickly," he said.

Human Rights Commission To Travel to Panama

PA2501161390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0023 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Quito, 19 Jan (EFE)—The Latin American Association of Human Rights (ALDHU) said today that it will form a high-level commission that will travel to Panama to evaluate the effects of the U.S. military invasion and eventually file charges against the United States.

ALDHU Secretary General Juan Parra expressed his confidence that "the occupation troops" will permit the entry of the mission into Panama during the 2d week of February, adding that visas will be requested at Panamanian diplomatic missions.

The legal recourse being considered by the ALDHU will be presented to the Inter-American Justice System or before U.S. courts.

The mission will be headed by U.S. diplomat Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador; former Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Julio Prado Vallejo; Melinda Delashmutt, leader of the USA-Latin America International Center; Argentine Deputy Miguel Monserrat; and Parra. The group will include another four or five Latin American leaders who will be appointed at the ALDHU meeting to be held next week in Montevideo.

U.S. citizen Delashmutt said the U.S. Army's invasion of Panama was "illegal" because "U.S. President George Bush did not consult Congress, the only organ in my country that can declare war."

The mission's objective will be to investigate the number killed during the U.S. invasion of Panama, the circumstances under which they lost their lives, the number of Panamanian civilians and soldiers who "are detained in concentration camps," under what laws they are being detained, and to which competent court they have been sent.

In addition, "based on the ALDHU's objectives and institutional mandate," the mission will evaluate the extent of the property and financial damage resulting from the destruction of the city and the paralyzation of commercial and productive activities.

The mission will then travel to Nicaragua to witness the presidential elections that will take place in that country on 25 February. It will also visit El Salvador, where it will seek to promote a dialgoue between the government and the opposition with the mediation of the United Nations.

Cuba

Alleged U.S. Attack on Cargo Ship Reported

FL3101165790 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1638 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Jan (NOTIMEX) —A U.S. warship this morning attacked a Cuban ship in Mexican jurisdictional waters approximately 10 miles from the Mexican coast, Cuba's PRENSA LATINA [PRELA] reported. The ship was headed to the port of Tampico in Tamaulipas, the press agency said. PRELA added that the ship is a small cargo ship of approximately 2,300 tons deadweight operated by the Cuban Guamar Shipping Company and registered under the Panamanian flag.

According to PRELA, Cuban Ambassador Jose Fernandez Cossio said that the Mexican Foreign Ministry was immediately notified of the act because it is a flagrant violation of all international laws.

Havana TV Cites Brazilian Daily on Quayle Tour

FL3001165690 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The Brazilian newspaper FOLHA DE SAO PAULO stated today that U.S. diplomacy has suffered another defeat with the suspension of the Latin American tour of Vice President Dan Quayle.

In a commentary, FOLHA DE SAO PAULO states that none of the countries of the Group of Eight wanted to hear Quayle's explanations about the Panama invasion, and that all member countries of this group refused to recognize the U.S.- imposed Endara government.

FOLHA DE SAO PAULO adds that the election of Cuba as a member of the UN Security Council by the vote of all Latin American countries was another defeat for the so-called U.S. diplomacy.

Report Says Quayle 'Misunderstood' UN Official

FL3101132490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar denies having promised the United States that he would submit the topic of Cuban human rights to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Perez de Cuellar's spokesman, Francois Guliani, said that the secretary general felt that U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle misunderstood him when he said that he would present a report on the situation of human rights in Cuba at the annual meeting of the Human Rights Commission, which began on 29 January at its headquarters in Geneva. The spokesman also said that in 1989, the commission adopted Decision No 113, which says that no further reporting is required on the human rights situation in Cuba.

Demonstration Repudiates TV Marti Start-Up

FL3101155590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0027 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Havana, 30 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The rumors and reports about the imminent start of TV Marti broadcasts decreased today after the signal from the U.S. television station did not enter Cuba. There were great expectations among Cubans over the weekend; it was said that TV Marti would begin broadcasting at that time, and this generated a demonstration of more than 15,000 people in Havana and other cities on the island to repudiate the television project.

During the demonstration last Saturday against the television station, one could sense a feeling of uncertainty among the inhabitants of the capital because of the consequences TV Marti could have on relations between Cuba and the United States. In Cuba there is the fear that the start of the broadcasts will lead to an escalation in hostilities between the two countries, whose relations are kept in a constant state of tension because of the blockade the United States maintains against Cuba.

However, some accounts said that the apparent postponement of the TV Marti tests would only last a few days since the so-called anti-Cuban television station could start operations during the first two weeks of February.

The Cuban authorities intensified their condemnation of TV Marti last weekend, but to date it has not been reported if they have received any signals from the U.S. television station with their receivers. The Cuban Government continues to perfect the strategy it announced on 29 December to neutralize, and even reverse, the U.S. broadcasts, but it has not explained how it will succeed in winning out over the technical and financial superiority of the United States.

More Reportage on Workers Federation Congress

Castro Speaks on Distribution

FL3101014190 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2027 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Remarks by President Fidel Castro Ruz to the 16th Cuban Workers Federation Congress on 27 January—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] We must educate the people, and when they enter a five-star hotel, there will be a lot of workers there; education will not be only for university professors. Many of the workers from the contingents earn more than university workers. The rewards will be for workers. How are the capacities going to be distributed? I favor granting the maximum of these capacities to the workers movement. [applause] Because the workers are workers and not illegal vendors. The workers are workers and not lumpen. The workers are workers and not thieves.

In this country we have all kinds among the managers and among the workers who put their hands in and steal.

Maybe one works in a cafeteria and takes a little away from everyone, or one can be in a warehouse; another may be at a milk store and sell the milk that the consumers did not get. He sells it at the free market price and keeps the difference. We know all about these occurrences. Unfortunately it is something we have to fight against—these individuals who seek income that is not earned.

In general, an honest worker recognizes an honest worker. I think that distribution through the workers is the best system in most cases. Housing is distributed through the workers, and not through some man whose duty is to assign houses. [applause] A cooperative may make a mistake, but the possibility for...[rephrases] well, it is a mistake, but a cooperative will not court privileges. It is an individual who distributes and determines who is next on the list. That is why we distribute color televisions through...[rephrases] all those things there are not enough of, like cars—since they are distributed in an assembly, it is the workers who distribute the cars and [words indistinct] lines for things always give rise to the problem of people who benefit, people who bribe, and we... [changes thought] Many of the articles that the workers demand... [changes thought] And one of the things they demand are places for vacations.

We would have to seek... [changes thought] There is always a need, a minimum. Well, we would have to also determine in the cases of those who are retired and those who are workers what possibilities there are. [applause] We would have to do! all of these things. But that is not fair. Because everyone is a worker here. The university professors are workers. The scientists are workers, and they do not have very high salaries here—there are no people here...[rephrases] Actually, some workers have the highest salaries here; they have higher salaries than ministers.

But the ministers are workers. I imagine that once in a while, they also get to stay in one of (?our) places. We have avoided having hotels for ministers. We have always avoided that as much as possible—granting things that seem to be privileges. But I am inclined, I have always thought that the distribution of most—I do not say all, because you cannot say all, there may always be a minimum need, a minimum availability ...[changes thought] but what I do not like is distribution by lines, because even there, the illegal vendors slip in, the thieves, who are worth nothing, the millionaires. Some became millionaires—even in the time of the free peasant market there were those who became millionaires, illegal vendors who became millionaires, people who collected hundreds of millions of pesos. There are also thieves; we see the evidence in the police reports. The police report: So-and-so who stole 40,000 pesos wanted this or that thing.

But these people steal 40,000 pesos and go and stay in nothing less than a five-star hotel. He who has money goes to a five-star hotel—the one who stands in line, who is a scoundrel, has to be number one in the line. And since these are realities, we have to think about the distribution of these resources—which ones the country will have in the future—because my hope is that everything we invest in tourism will also serve our populace. Our citizens are like a cat, which does not want anything to do with cold water. They do not go out much in December, January, February, or November; they do not go to the beach. But when July and August come—and these are the months during which we will have less tourism, although there are some hotels which will have 30, 40 vacant rooms—we will look for a way which will allow our workers to enjoy the greatest possible amount of the capacity, the surplus. Our workers. [applause] This is the idea that we are thinking about a lot.

I have taken the liberty of giving you these explanations so that you may understand better what all this talk about suitability means. Someone who is not suitable for one thing, and someone who does not have training is another. The one without training can be trained. One who turns out to be disloyal, dishonest, cannot...[changes thought] If he is reeducated, it is better not to reeducate him in a three-star or four-star hotel. It is better to reeducate him in another of the many honorable jobs there are, one where he cannot do the damage that he could do in other places. These are some of my ideas, and that is the reason for the regulations we have, which help greatly. We have implemented this idea in the hospitals, because to tell the truth, a cabaret and a hospital are two different things. If someone makes a mistake in a hospital, it is very bad. If an ill person is left unattended, it is very bad. If a person is given an incorrect injection, it is very bad. If an attendant is not at the patient's bedside, it is very bad.

If the cabaret I am talking about is the Tropicana and if it has bad service, it is also very bad, because it is then taking away the money we need for the hospital. The hospitals do not produce money, but they cost money—often a lot. To raise this type of money, we have international tourism. But if people aren't treated right, we have no other choice but to also enforce discipline in the cabaret. There must be discipline in everything. There must be exceptional discipline in some exceptional places, although this discipline is being thought about often.

New methods such as the contingents have arisen, which is the discipline of the cooperative. I confess that I really like this. The cooperative has strict criteria, fair criteria. It is not a person who decides; it is not even an honorable judge, because even honorable judges make mistakes. [applause] They make mistakes, and even an honorable judge, or a not so honorable judge, can be bribed, or may let himself be carried away by subjective factors. A workers cooperative does not let itself get carried away. That is why we are looking for other methods that will help with discipline. We are looking to get away from idealism and things that are not real, from paternalism, because it does not help us to develop, it does not help us to build socialism, it does not help us in the confrontation with imperialism and capitalism.

Above all, we have to study all the things that have done damage in other socialist countries, many of which we did not copy, fortunately. I can just imagine what would happen here if cars were distributed through the use of lists—here, this one is yours. There are not many we can distribute to the workers, unfortunately. We give them to doctors, internationalists. The administrative people them, the hospitals need them, the factories, many others need them. However, the cars that are distributed to the workers are distributed because it is the cooperative that distributes them.

This does not prevent us from allocating a certain number of them to the youth technical brigades, for exar.ple, just as we can also allocate them to the innovators and efficiency experts as awards. [applause] We must introduce this type of distribution. There are some cars that are not distributed by assemblies. They are distributed on merit, record. However, you will often come across a hero of the struggle, a great combatant who says that he is an invalid and that he is a a special case. He requests to be sold a car, it is sold to him. Some things are are sold in this way. There are people who have very serious, very grave problems that must be resolved because of humane considerations. There are a lot of people who are war invalids, who fulfilled an internationalist mission, who request a car. That is, there are some that are not distributed by assembly, but I say the number of these cases are low. This problem of distribution is quite centralized, and we are always trying to investigate what merit the people have—need is not enough. It is not enough for them only to have been an outstanding combatant in the war of liberation. We must see what kind of lives they have led since the war and their integration into the revolution—these are factors that are also taken into account.

However, I can imagine free distribution. I can remember when the first motorcycles arrived here. I went on a tour of the eastern provinces and I found out that in Holguin, chaos had broken out. They were selling the motorcycles for vouchers. It was absurd of the ministry to do this—some do not like this type of distribution because it makes more work, naturally. Listen, all lumpens were standing in line from early on and began to bribe those who were there. They were mechanizing the lumpen. I found out about this and called a meeting of the Council of Ministers. I said: The motorcycles will be distributed by factories. It is not done by lines or vouchers, or because I am friends with the person who determines distribution. It is illegal to resell the motorcyles. If they were to be resold, just like the cars, to the state... [changes thought] Many of these workers, cane-cutters or not, receive a car which is sold to them at cost, and are given several years to pay. But if anyone wants, he can pay 20,000 pesos, any illegal vendor, any rich person, any lumpen, any thief.

We can also see this in the distribution of construction materials in general. Previously, the lumpen, who was free to move around, would come here to Havana. The rich would come from Santa Clara; he would come with a truck and carried off sand, rocks, cement, and rod irons. He could have a house. The humble worker could not. Today we give a worker up to 10 years to pay back for construction materials. When we have more materials, we will be able to distribute more for construction by individuals, but to whom? To the lumpen, the thieves? No, to the honest workers. And they are given loans at low interest and up to 10 years to repay them.

From the beginning, our system has included many of these things. Imagine if color televisions were distributed by vouchers or lists. When (?do we compare) an honest worker with a color television? Now we may have the problem of not hanving the antenna, or it is delayed or does not come. These are other kinds of problems. But it was not a thief who bought that color television. If one day there is a surplus, as there have been surpluses, and another day there is a surplus of black and white, even the thieves can buy them.

But all these things we distribute are very much in demand because our people have great purchasing power. We distribute these things though other channels. This is one of the characteristics of our revolution. As I was saying, I have opposed all my life the idea that one sector should have something that the others do not. And if this occurs with the state, or with the high administration of the state, it is the greatest disgrace. I would like you to know that this year there were many ministers who could not take even one day of vacation. Not only because they had to work, but because there was nowhere to go.

Do you realize this? Many of these places had started using privileges which established a separation with the masses. This is very different from all the beliefs we have defended, are defending, and that we must continue to defend. Today, we saw an example of what I am talking about: how to distribute hotel rooms. I don't know. Often, I think about building a good restaurant to bring in some money. I tell people that I am always happier when we help a good cafeteria than when we build a good restaurant. Although, good restaurants must be built. I realize they must be built. The new high-priced restaurants which bring in money are sometimes visited by the worker, professional, or the lumpen; naturally, these are some of the things that cannot be totally prevented. That is why it is so important to (?uncover) the thieves.

The ideal thing would be to not have privileges in society. It would be ideal not have illegal vendors in society, or thieves. Each thief violates the rights of others even when he just goes to dine at a restaurant and takes the place of a humble worker, simply because he has the time and got there earlier and chose the best table and time to go. The thief or illegal vendor who uses funds that are not earned violates the rights of others. He hurts our sense of justice and equality. Unfortunately, we know that socialism has these kinds of people. We know this. That is why I say that at many of the cafeterias I have visited, it is better to go there quietly without publicity. These people can be from one sector or

another. They can be minibrigade workers, industry workers, contingent workers, and mechanical industry workers. We will improve their food as much as possible. This is important to them. The agricultural worker's food has improved because they can supply themselves. The agricultural, sugarcane, and those kinds of workers have land and can produce food. City workers face more difficult conditions.

[Words indistinct] quiet without making promises, when we have more resources. This does not happen when one of those restaurants are built. You cannot put a sign there telling a humble worker (?to go) there. You cannot prevent this. We have no other alternative than to make some concessions. A lot of the people who go there are also honest people, not just the other kind. A lot of people with a high income can go there. A contingent worker could go there two or even three times. However, he often does not have time to go. But we are trying to overcome all these types of inconveniences and trying to ensure society is more just.

However, we need to make progress in a lot of things. Anyone who attends one of these congresses can understand the progress that has been made. However, we still have a lot of areas in which we need to make progress—more discipline, in general, and now more than ever, because of all these difficulties we are experiencing.

I have taken a little more time....

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] Thank you [applause] for this explanation, commander. Allow me to say something. There are those here who do not know how much a minister earns and who think that a minister earns...[rephrases] I have been explaining that in some places lately. How many here know how much a minister makes? Raise your hands. Those are probably the ones who have heard me speaking these days. Up until recently, even a rector of a faculty did not know how much a minister made. The construction minister, aside from his assistants, makes less than what contingent workers throughout the country make. The minister...

[Castro, interrupting] Not all of contingent workers make 450 pesos, some make 500.

[Unidentified speaker] That is why I am saying this.

[Castro] It makes us very happy, and I say this and explain it constantly to the comrades. Furthermore, the job of a minister is and must be a voluntary job.

[Unidentified speaker] That is what we have been explaining.

[Castro] No one can be forced to carry out the role of a minister.

[Unidentified speaker] But many think that, like in other countries, we have had a continuous increase in leaders' salaries. Here, as a principle, as we explained back then and you stated, the prime minister [as heard] cut his salary in half so that another one could take the post. The other ministers also had their salaries reduced, and ever since, the ministers' salaries have been reduced. Furthermore, the salaries of the party's cadres, in principle, even if they do the equivalent job, is less than the state officials' salaries. This is a principle of the revolution which we do not have to rectify, because we have been applying it for over 30 years. This is what we have been explaining because a lot of people do not know this. Additionally, many people think that the salary of the main leaders is...

[Castro] In all fairness, it must also be said that a minister does not lack anything. If he goes... [rephrases] he does not have to take the bus in the morning. Generally speaking, we will not say that a minister is starving and that he has a lot of work. However, he must be honest, because if he is not, we will find out. [applause] It would be easy to catch on to him [word indistinct] I tell you that these are exceptional cases.

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] And measures have been taken.

[Castro] I think it is evident we are making an effort to attract more dedicated and honest people in everything. It is very satisfying to see that there are many workers who make more than a minister. The job of a worker, who may work up to 14 hours, is not the same as the job of a minister. A minister could work 14 hours or even 15, and generally speaking, they have to work a lot and move a lot. However, they are not crushing stone or in a bulldozer the entire time. I can tell you that he who drives an omnibus 8 hours a day has a job which is very violent, difficult which does not...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] It is very important.

[Castro] The job of a minister cannot be compared to someone who has to to [words indistinct] for many hours, or to the man who is cutting sugarcane. One must think about the man who cuts sugarcane 10 or 12 hours a day and about the man who is there clearing weeds or picking up those things. I tell you that the job of a minister is tolerable, not always, but generally, it is. It is difficult—he cannot be treated with a silk glove at work.

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] Commander, just like the [word indistinct].

[Castro] The ministers are criticized a lot, I can assure you of that. They are not criticized by the people but by us, the party. Serious conversations are held with all of them. However, what I am interested in emphasizing is the satisfaction we find in this, because it is also part of the socialist formula. Everyone is paid according to his job. So, a chief of a contingent...[rephrases] We had to fight about this with the contingent chiefs because some believed they should earn more money. We had to fight this because (?they) did not want it. Therefore, it is possible to have workers in the contingent who make more than the chief of the contingent. We do have those workers who, because of their qualifications and the type

of job they do, earn more. Within the socialist framework, we are looking for the maximum amount of fairness. And to attain the greatest amount of fairness, we must also have the greatest amount of honesty in everything.

New Members Announced

FL3001211290

[Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services in Spanish at 2025 GMT on 28 January carry the announcement of the new members of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] National Council. The announcement was made during the closing session of the 16th CTC Congress at the Karl Marx Theater in Havana.

They include: Adela Abreu Martell, Juan Aguero Perez, Ramon Alfonso Vera, (Mario Tomas Alvarez Mistelier), (Dimaris Aquino Diaz), Pedro O. Armas Perez, (Pedro A. Arruebo Almaguer), Ada R. Benitez Colado, Joaquin Bernal Camero, Margarita Bernal Valdivia, Blas Berriel Pena, Luis E. Brito Jimenez, Roberto Cabrera Hernandez, Daniel R. Cabrera Ramon, Marta Cabrisas Alfonso, (Jorge L. Canela Ciruana), Ezequiel Cantillo Rodriguez, Ramon Cardona Nuevo, Georgina Carnero Hernandez, Justa Brisalia Casamayor Rodriguez, Francisco Castillo Falcon, Freddy Castillo Gonzalez, Pedro Castillo Hernandez, Arturo Cobo Acosta, Rafael Collazo Cabrera, Manuel Cordero Aguila, Ramon Crespo Almeira, Pedro Cruz Aguilera, Teresita Chavez Curbelo, Ana Maria Diaz C. Navarro, Franciso Duran Jarbei, (Laura Elena Heyn Menendez), Nora Espinosa Mederos, Antonio Pineira Magdalena, Sara Ines Fernandez Echevarria, Luis Antonio Fernandez Perez, Magali de la Feria Aviles, Jorge Feria Martin, (Rafael Garcia Berriel), Diana M. Garcia Martinez, Alfredo Garcia Villalobos, Carmen Alicia Gonzalez Alvarez, Leonel Gonzalez Gonzalez, Marlen de la C. Gonzalez Mas, Bienvenida Alicia Guerra Rodriguez, (Blanca Lenys Paneque), (Arcadio E. Lemus Clavelo), Antonio Leon del Monte, Roger Lopez de la Cruz, Agustin Lopez Gomez, Fredesvinda Lopez Gonzalez, Maria de la Mercedes Lopez Vera, Bernardo LLano Leon, (Alberto Manchan Fuente), Ramon O. Martinez Rodriguez, Carmen Martinez Sainz, (Gabriel P. Mela Suarez), Anibal Melo Infante, Angel Luis Mena Kindelan, Manuel Mendez Castellano, Alfredo Morales Cartaya, Orlando Moreira Alonso, Angel Antonio Morffi Losada, Haydee Virgen Montes Cabrera, Miriam Navarro Matos,(Viterbo Asdrubal Orregui Diaz), Arturo Ortiz Torres, Gladys Pages Borges, (Idalmis Pena Guevara), Carlos Perez Hernandez, Miguel Angel Perez Hernandez, Hugo Orlando Perez Sierra, (Maira Queralta Ducassi), Argelio Quevedo Suarez, Ana Fidelia Quiros, Irma Rosa Ramos Pausa, Barbara Lina Robinson Gordon, Lazaro Rodriguez Leon, Ursinio Rojas Santiesteban, Jose A. Roque Arias, Pedro Ross Leal, Rita A. Ruiz Martinez, Alcides Segarra Caron, Luis A. Simeon Salinas, (Eusebio Stuart Saseglio), Jorge Torres Hernandez, Leonardo Umpirre Rivero, Reinaldo Valdes Grillo, Salvador Valdes Mesa, Milagro de la Fe Veiga Moreno, Manuel Veitia Cadalso, Raul Vera Delgado, Angel Villarreal Bravo, and (Regla M. Subiaur Chapotin).

CTC Council member Ursinio Rojas announces that in its first meeting the CTC National Council elected the following as members of its Executive Secretariat:

Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the CTC National Committee; Salvador Valdes Mesa, second secretary; Francisco Duran Jarbei, third secretary; Francisco Castillo Falcon, Marta Cabrisas Alfonso, and Rafael Collazo Cabrera, Joaquin Bernal Camero; Miguel Cordero Aguila, secretary general of the National Sugar Industry Workers; Ramon Cardona Nuevo, secretary general of the National Chemical, Mining, and Energy Industry Trade Union; Angel L. Mena Kindelan, secretary general of the National Light Industry Workers Union; (Rodolfo Baez Jimenez Polanco), secretary general of the National Union of Trade and Gastronomy Workers; Luis Brito Jimenez, secretary general of the National Construction Workers Union; Pedro O. Armas Perez, secretary general of the National Education, Science, and Sports Worker Union; Ramon Crespo Almeira, secretary general of the National Health Workers Union; Alfredo Morales Cartaya, secretary general of the provincial committee of the CTC in City of Havana Province; Maria del Carmen Martinez Vasquez, secretary general of the provincial committee of the CTC in Pinar del Rio Province; Olga Rosa Gomez Cortes, director of the Lazaro Pena National Trade Union Cadre School of the CTC; and Felicia Cedeno Rodriguez, secretary general of the Havana City metalworking factory.

Latin American Delegates Meet

FL3001191190 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The delegates and guests from Latin America and the Caribbean at the 16th CTC [Cuban Workers Federation] Congress are attending another important meeting—which will last until tomorrow—in the capital. An urgent call for unity has been the order of the day among the participants in the meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean unions, which is in session in the Ernest Tillman Hall of the CTC.

Impressed by the words of our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in his closing speech at the 16th CTC Congress, the union members, in airing their concerns about the situation in each of their countries, have said that this speech has already become a working tool of the Latin American labor movement.

This is a meeting for reflection, in which the participants have spoken about reformulating the labor movement's strategies with reunifying elements and adjusting it to the situation in each country, with a very clear awareness that it is one of imperialism's policies to silence the voices of the workers and their unions in many ways. The participants were also of the opinion that it is necessary to defend the cause of the Cuban people, since

to weaken the trench of the Latin American labor movement which is Cuba is part of imperialism's strategy.

Efrain Sanchez of the Dominican Republic proposed holding a continental day of solidarity with Cuba and stressed that today more than ever, unity is more important. Unity is the right path for seeking common solutions. The workers demand the right not to suffer military interventions, for their children not to die of hunger or curable diseases, create a better world, and to live in peace.

Representatives Call for Unity

FL3001225090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2048 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The need to achieve an effective united movement was expressed today by several delegates who attended the meeting of Latin American and Caribbean union leaders. The representatives of the Brazilian, Chilean, and Venezuela labor movements said that it is important that the Latin American labor unions find ways to reach regional agreements to confront the real problems of the workers. The representatives from Trinidad-Tobago, Bolivia, and Puerto Rico expressed their support for the suggestion and called for unity among the regional labor movements in the struggle against major problems like the payment of the foreign debt. All the delegates who attended the meeting of Latin American and Caribbean union leaders said that it is time to go from words to action and make the unity of the labor movements a reality.

My country has been used by the United States to practice what it could do today to other Latin American nations, Panamanian union leader Omar Rodriguez said. Rodriguez condemned the persecution experienced by the labor movement in Panama following the Yankee invasion. He also said that the government workers are experiencing a massive wave of firing unleashed by Guillermo Endara's puppet government.

Meanwhile, Argentine union leader Luis Canay talked about the growing number of strikes rocking his country as a result of the government's decision to implement the IMF's economic policy. We are using every means available to express the Argentine worker's rejection of the IMF plans because they will have a negative effect on the people.

Castro Sends Message to CPSU Committee

FL3001220890 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, has sent a message to the CPSU Central Committee. In his message, he thanks the Soviet communists for their message on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution.

Envoy, Soviet Official Discuss Economic Ties

FL3101142890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Cuban-Soviet economic cooperation plans were examined today in Moscow by Leonid Abalkin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Julio Camacho Aguilera, Cuban ambassador. The Soviet news agency TASS reports that the talks were held in a frank and friendly atmosphere at the request of Ambassador Aguilera.

Culture Minister Meets With Argentine President

FL3001123290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem has received Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos, with whom he discussed matters of bilateral and international interest. The Argentine head of state and the Cuban leader positively assessed the recently concluded Latin American and Caribbean culture ministers' meeting held in the city of Mar del Plata, 400 km south of Buenos Aires. The two leaders described the results of the meeting as excellent.

Hart added his meeting with Menem as affable.

Urges Regional Integration

FL3101134390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] While in the Argentine capital, Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos has called for unanimous willingness to integrate Latin America and the Caribbean, as expressed during the recently concluded ministerial meeting held in Mar del Plata. The most important thing is that we have identified the cultural problems our area is confronting, Hart said in assessing the results of the meeting sponsored by Argentine President Carlos Menem.

In remarks made to PRENSA LATINA, the Cuban minister stressed that unlike the economic and political arenas, there were no discrepancies regarding cultural integration.

Castro Diaz-Balart Stresses Nuclear Achievements

FL3001195090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1222 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Report by Angela Soto from the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] The achievements attained and the efforts made during the first 10 years of the Atomic Energy Commission [CEA] and the Secretariat for Nuclear Affairs were reviewed for the press by Dr Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, CEA executive secretary.

[Begin Castro Diaz-Balart recording] I think it is very important to stress this because we have reached a certain level now. Some modest progress can be seen in

the development of our nuclear energy program primarily because we have had clear guidelines, precise objectives, and the direction and participation of our Communist Party of Cuba and government from the start, especially from our commander in chief. [end recording]

The CEA executive secretary also said that there are more than 150 units that use radioactive substances and ionization radiation, including 19 organizations of the State Central Administration, such as in the medical and industrial fields. Irradiation [radiofarmaco] is used in agriculture and in several areas of the national economy. One of the points stressed by Dr Castro Diaz-Balart was that in 1988, more than 600 nuclear science and technology graduates had dedicated themselves to the country's economy. They are true specialists forged by the revolution for the benefit of the people.

The executive secretary also noted that approximately 90 institutions throughout the country have received certificates for creating conditions indispensable to radiation safety. This has been recognized by the International Atomic Energy Organization, which has proposed to make Cuba a regional center for this very important area. Our country is also outstanding because of its nuclear safety system, which is subject to the same mandatory guidelines, requirements, and procedures that apply to people and institutions who work in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Delegations from seven countries from all the continents are visiting us on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the CEA. The foreign representatives will visit institutions, tour the Juragua electronuclear center in Cienfuegos, and exchange expertise with Cuban specialists and technicians.

The main ceremony marking the CEA's 10th anniversary will be held in the Universal Hall of the Revolutionary Armed Forces on 3 February.

Commission Discusses Cooperation With Sao Tome

FL3001162890 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The fifth session of the Cuba-Sao Tome and Principe Joint Commission began today at the Sierra Maestra Hotel in the capital. Guillermo Posser da Costa, Sao Tome and Principe minister of cooperation, heads the delegation from that African country. Heading the Cuban side is Ernesto Melendez Bachs, minister president of the State Committee of Economic Cooperation.

Cuba and Sao Tome and Principe began relations in 1976, and 37 Cuban cooperative workers are currently in that country working in the fields of public health, education, and fishing. The possibility of expanding cooperation to agriculture was discussed at this intergovernmental session. The fifth session of the Cuba-Sao Tome and Principe Joint Commission will conclude in Havana on 1 February.

Shipment of Wheat Arrives in Cienfuegos

FL3001151890 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 27 Jan 90

[Text] With the arrival of a shipment of wheat to Cienfuegos Province, the continuation of the production process at the wheat mills has been ensured. The Cuban ship "Antonio Maceo," which as was reported previously had docked at the port of Cienfuegos with 22,000 tons of wheat for bread, unloaded some of its cargo and is now heading for Santiago de Cuba. In that eastern port, it will unload the 9,000 tons left in its hold, which will reach Santiago de Cuba just in time; the grain complex there was about to come to a halt for lack of wheat.

As for Cienfuegos, the stocks of raw materials had also begun to be depleted before the ship's arrival. The grain complex in this city had already been using its reserves since 16 January, and the outlook was that by today they would be exhausted. In the face of the threat of paralyzation of these two complexes and of the circumstances in which this ship carrying wheat arrived in the country, it became necessary to make additional efforts to unload it in Cienfuegos. An average of 1,800 tons per day was unloaded during a week when the stipulated amount to be unloaded daily was only 1,500 tons, and this in spite of the nature of the ship, which was not really a grain carrier; the bad technical condition of the suction hoses; and the always inopportune rain; these were factors that conspired against the unloading.

The arrival of the ship has permitted the deliveries of wheat to continue without interruption to the five provinces in the country that receive the output from this complex, as well as to continue delivering its output to animal feed factories in four other provinces. Two ships with corn for animal feed factories and a ship with hard wheat for bread are expected to arrive at these facilities in February. Personnel are now prepared to receive them and unload them as quickly as possible.

Haiti

Details of State of Siege Rescindment Given

FL3001172290 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] We have a press release from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination. It says: The Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination announces to the general public that by government decree dated 29 January 1990, Articles 41, 41-1, 278, and 278-3 of the Constitution of 1987, which had been temporarily shelved by decree on 20 January 1990, are reinstated into the Constitution as of the promulgation of the present decree. According to Article 2 of this decree, the 20 January 1990 decree establishing martial law throughout Haiti is being rescinded. Also rescinded is the 20 January decree reestablishing the requirement that all citizens overseas wishing to return to Haiti first obtain an entry visa.

The text of this decree, which is signed by General Avril, president of the military government, says that these measures yielded good results and allowed the government to solve the crisis that was threatening the future of democracy here in Haiti.

We have also received a memorandum from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination. It says: In followup to the 29 January decree rescinding the decree of 20 January establishing martial law in Haiti, the ministry informs all the nation's media that the dispositions of the 22 January memorandum are hereby rescinded. Thus, the 20 January memorandum, a copy of which had been sent to the press, has, according to this press release from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination, been rescinded.

Also, the Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination invites all members of the media to a news conference to be held by Lieutenant General Prosper Avril at the National Palace tomorrow morning, 31 January.

We do not yet have the time, but tomorrow morning the head of the military government, Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril, will hold a news conference at the National Palace—tomorrow, Wednesday, 31 January. Members of the media are all invited to this news conference.

Bishops Conference Issues Statement on Siege

FL3001185990 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1730 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Statement issued by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti on 26 January]

[Text] Just 1 month ago, in our Christmas message, we noted that disorder had erupted, as well as an entire series of misfortunes reminding us of the misfortunes the Haitian people and nation were suffering before 1906 [year as heard]: corruption, crimes, armed robbers, drugs, violent repression, insecurity, and all kinds of woes of the body, spirit, and mind. We called for them [not further identified] to give moral values greater consideration, to respect moral values, to root human rights more deeply into the framework of our society.

Not only did they not listen to us, but other circumstances arose, making the nation's social and political situation even more serious and difficult.

Now the military government has just issued decrees putting the country under martial law, which gives it greater power. The government has removed articles from the Constitution. It is requiring all Haitians wishing to enter Haiti to obtain a visa to do so. Then what happened? The government arrested people improperly. It exiled people; there are people who cannot be found. They muzzled the press, radio, and television. All these things have created a situation of anxiety and fear among families, as well as distrust and terror among the population.

The Haitian people have no money. They have become discouraged because their rights are being trampled. All their hopes have been dashed. Thus, they do not know what tomorrow will be like.

This difficult situation is a stab from a dagger that pierces our hearts, as we are guardians of the people. The suffering of families and everyone who is living in insecurity hurts us very much. It is for this reason that we cannot remain silent.

In our Christmas message we pointed out the need not to make mistakes we would later regret. We wanted to build life according to God's plan. We thought we could build Haiti according to the way we ourselves wanted. What dominated us and is undermining us is this business of power, ambition, and false pride, through which some are attempting to obtain material advantages and take care of personal interests, which runs counter to the good of the society as a whole.

In view of this great misfortune hanging over the head of the Haitian people and nation, we send out a loud cry to the entire nation, in the name of our faith in God, in the name of the rights we have as citizens, and in the name of the great change the Haitian people are awaiting: It is time for us to stop ripping one another apart. Let us once again begin to form a single whole, so that we can walk together and work hand in hand as we did before 7 February 1986.

When we look at our country's history, we find that every time the Haitian people come together in favor of one same cause, wonders occur. Why cannot what was done yesterday be done again today?

To enable our people to make the society into what they want it to be, we ask the political authorities to respect the nation's Constitution in its entirety in both letter and spirit, because it is the nation's principal law, which provides proper guarantees for citizens' freedoms; to never again exile anyone; and to restore to those who have been exiled full rights to return and live as citizens in their country. They must once and for all stop torturing people in the different ways to which they are accustomed, such as violent repression, beatings, insulting and humiliating people, and sullying their reputations. Also, they must repair the damage done to those whose rights and dignity have been trampled. They must take proper measures that will give the people confidence to establish a climate that will allow free and honest elections to be held. In this way, the people will be able to shoulder their responsibility to vote, as every citizen should.

They must become aware of the way the Haitian people are thrashing about in an agonizing situation; this will encourage the population to become a democratic society without violence and without hatred.

We ask those responsible for the nation's security to respect the law and these principles while carrying out their roles vigilantly.

We ask political leaders, merchants, and industrialists; people in all kinds of professional and vocational categories; unions; young people and peasants; and our compatriots who live in other countries to get more deeply involved in the collective effort to rebuild the nation together in the fraternity, solidarity, and unity that is our strength. To enable this to happen, we promise to march with the people along the road of courage and confidence in God, for we are certain that God will never forget his people. In this work, we will ask the Virgin Mary, mother of perpetual aid, together with her son Jesus, to help us.

This statement was issued at the headquarters of the Episcopal Conference of Haiti on 26 January.

Jamaica

Commentary Criticizes Manley Over Quayle Visit

FL3001171790 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2312 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] This has been a bad weekend for Jamaica. We are welcoming someone we would much rather have not, because we can do better. A prime minister has been wrongly denounced by groups and people who once looked up to him as a great spokesman and symbolic figure of Third World solidarity, a man in the forefront of the struggle for new economic order and champion of the sovereignty of small states. They say he has compromised all this by welcoming the vice president of the United States so soon after the invasion of Panama and while U.S. occupation troops are still there. They point out that others in the region, Mexico and Venezuela leading them, have refused to welcome the vice president at this time. Even the Jamaican leader of the opposition, the principal leading regional player in the earlier American invasion of tiny Grenada, now finds it politically expedient to refuse to receive the American vice president.

The ironic catch here is that [words indistinct] toward a change, in a few years' time, the said leader of the opposition will have to do some extraordinary political somersaults to regain the Uncle's good graces. But then, politics in Jamaica these days tends to be rather short termed and often a cynical power game. And this is one of our major attitudinal problems in dealing with truly national crises.

So, where do we go from here when we, who were yesterday's [word indistinct] for the Uncle in the region, yesterday snubbing the vice president and he, who was the thundering defiant [word indistinct] yesterday, is now described as Uncle's parlor pussycat? Are the differences between them really as profound as they made them out to be for electoral purposes? And if they are not, are these leaders not playing dangerous and destructive games with their people and the people's future?

Government Announces New Economic Measures

FL3101005090 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] As of midnight tonight, the Jamaican dollar will be valued at seven Jamaican dollars to the U.S. dollar, that is, seven to one. This was announced by Finance Minister Seymour Mullings when he outlined the new IMF agreement negotiated by Jamaica through the House of Representatives. Some of the other measures include a 50-percent increase in consumption duty, an item for which [words indistinct] to parliament tomorrow. Further subsidies for basic foods will be removed in 2 days, causing the real prices to rise by an average of 19.5 percent and provide about $195 million for the government treasury. The electricity rate will go up in March by 32.5 percent, but small users of less than 100 kilowatt hours a month will have a lower rate. The contributions to the National Insurance Fund are to be increased effective April 1, 1990, yielding $95 million in revenue. The retail tax on cars for commercial use and with engines below 1,000cc will rise to 34 percent instead of the 15.5 percent now prevailing. The interest from the car retail tax is estimated at $110 million. Mr. Mullings said the cost for petroleum products, which includes gasoline, are being analyzed and the prices remain as they are. On a long-term [words indistinct] estimated to bring $274 million this year and the general consumption tax for October is expected to bring in another $80 million. The property [word indistinct] tax is expected to bring in $816 million. [Words indistinct] Mr. Mullings said that a three-percent growth in the economy is anticipated as well as a drop in the inflation rate to 14 percent from the 16 percent figure for last year. Deputy Prime Minister P.J. Patterson will speak tomorrow in parliament about the [word indistinct] production in the new IMF agreement.

[Words indistinct] earlier in his speech, Mr. Mullings had given some of the background leading up to today's announcement of the new IMF agreement stating that by December 1989 [words indistinct] totalled some $2 billion. Mr. Mullings said that over-the-counter (?index) showed an uncollapsed, basically lower rate, in contrast to the [word indistinct] foreign markets for foreign exchange deflected an expectation of further devaluations. [passage indistinct]

Trinidad and Tobago

Tewarie Succeeds Gordon in Industry Ministry

FL3001151690 Bridgetown CANA in English 0611 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Trinidadian minister without portfolio, Bhoe Tewarie has been assigned the Industry Ministry, replacing Senator Ken Gordon who has stepped down.

The appointment of the former general secretary of the ruling Alliance for National Reconstruction settles speculation on who would succeed Gordon who recently completed the three years he had pledged to hold the office.

Tewarie, will assume responsibilities on Thursday of the whole industry, enterprise and tourism portfolio—one of government's super ministries. Former Ambassador to Brazil, Suruj Rambachan, was named junior minister to Tewarie.

Reportage on Salinas' West European Visit

WA2901131390

For reportage on Salinas' visit to West Europe, including his talks with Portuguese and FRG officials, see the 29 January and subsequent issues of the West Europe DAILY REPORT.

Postelection Violence Victims Toll Rises to 44

FL2601162090 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1455 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Jan (NOTIMEX)—A member of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) has been killed in Tacambaro, Michoacan, raising the postelection violence victim toll since 6 July 1988 to 44.

Manuel Villegas Cordoba, commander of the police of the multiple-party-run city hall in Tacambaro, located in the western part of the country, was shot 10 times.

Agustin Velazquez, undersecretary of interior in Michoacan, said the person who is allegedly responsible for the murder is Andres Villasenor, brother of Maria Villasenor, former Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) deputy and the town's chief [cacique].

The incident took place last night when Villegas Cordoba, accompanied by other PRD members, was making rounds through the town and was attacked. The second version reported here says the PRI member had set up an ambush for Villegas Cordoba.

The PRD blamed Jorge Mendoza Alvarez, secretary general of the Michoacan government, for the incident because of the electoral fraud which has created clashes and caused the murder.

Some 20 people have died in Michoacan and Guerrero in postelection conflict since the PRD and the PRI claimed victory in some districts after the 3 December municipal elections.

The PRD charged in a document handed to the Interior Secretariat that the number of postelection violence victims since 6 July 1988, when presidential elections were held, has risen to 44. The PRD said the document does not represent the beginning of a dialogue, but a claim brought before the person responsible for national security.

Interior Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios said postelection problems will be solved within 24 hours by an agreement reached between the PRD and PRI.

*Hidalgo Governor, Candidate Selection Viewed

90EM0076A Mexico City PROCESO No 685 in Spanish 18 Dec 89 pp 8-9

[Article by Elias Chavez]

[Text] Pachuca, Hidalgo—Democracy? Political modernization? What really interests Adolfo Lugo Verduzco are his fighting bulls.

With his jacket cut short, his Cordova-style hat, and ranch boots, he spends most of his time at Rancho San Joaquin inspecting herds of calves, offspring of the Huichapan Cattle Company.

To avoid problems with "grass-roots consultations," modernization, and democratization, the former national chairman of PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] resorts openly to the dedazo [the practice of appointment "from above"].

On Friday, 8 December, he had Juan Alva Calderon, leader of the PRI in Hidalgo, call for the registration of candidates for the upcoming state legislative elections. The announcement was published Saturday the ninth, the last day of registration.

The early bird nomination process produced an uproar among PRI loyalists in Hidalgo. Fifteen mayors and some 30 leaders of peasant, university, professional, labor, and bureaucratic groups—including workers for the state's executive branch—rejected the maneuver. They accused their party of adopting "decisions totally foreign to the national leadership's modernization plan to achieve real, direct grass-roots participation and to put an end to dogmatic solutions from on high."

One of the most harshly criticized candidates was the PRI leader himself, Juan Carlos Alva Calderon, who hopes to represent Huejtla, the 10th district. Led by Nemorio Hernandez Medina and Bernabe Cruz Flores, peasant, worker, and popular action groups throughout the region were virtually unanimous in opposing him.

They and other PRI leaders signed a political advertisement repudiating the Alva Calderon nomination, but they were soon herded back into line. Interior Secretariat director Eduardo Cano Barberena sent his agents to Huejutla to arrest the dissidents and bring them to Pachuca.

To force them into submission and consummate the dedazo, the PRI and the government resorted to maneuvers such as the following. Four months ago a group of peasants tried to seize the office of the Regional Union of Ejidos and Communities of the Hidalgo State Portion of the Huasteca [the region including parts of the states of San Luis Potosi, Hidalgo, Vera Cruz, and Tamaulipas adjacent to the coastal strip running roughly from Tampico to Vera Cruz]. In the ensuing scuffle, Nicolas Hernandez, brother of union leader Nemorio Hernandez, killed one of the attackers, for which reason he is currently in jail. On Monday, 11 December, in Pachuca, Nemorio also became the target of a threat. Either he had to withdraw his opposition to the nomination of Alva Calderon or he, too, would go to jail on homicide charges.

Nemorio recanted.

What's more, on Tuesday, 11 December, Nemorio was among the speakers at the PRI state convention that

formalized the dedazo. He forgot about his protest and sang the praises of Alva Calderon.

On top of criticism from within the PRI, Prof Roberto Meza Garcia, leader and founder of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] in Hidalgo says Adolfo Lugo Verduzo is governor in name only and doesn't really govern. Luis Roche, Moises Rivera, and Sabino Juarez support this claim.

The person who really rules Hidalgo, they say, is Interior Secretary Ernesto Gil Elorduy. Lugo Verduzco, on the other hand, spends most of his time at his ranch tending to his fighting bulls. He's frustrated because when he was national chairman of the PRI, he considered himself presidential material. Upon becoming governor, he picked the wrong presidential candidate, throwing his support to Alfredo del Mazo. His frustration has caused him to shirk his duties. He wants no problems. Gil Elorduy handles everything, even pointing the finger with which Lugo designated a slate of legislative candidates. Most of them are notably lacking in followers and popularity.

The following are the PRI candidates:

Mario Viornery Mendoza, District I, Pachuca, spent his entire political and administrative career in Mexico City. He was the PRI's principal official for the capital and deputy representative for the Gustavo A. Madero administrative district. His nomination stems from his family ties with the governor's wife, Alejandra Mora de Lugo. The Mora and Viornery families used to promote boxing and wrestling in Pachuca.

Jose Marroquin Rodriguez, District II, Tulancingo, was nominated through the influence of Ernesto Gil Elorduy. Marroquin was an economic contributor to Gil's bid to become a federal legislator.

Romeo Perez Martinez, District III, Tula, is not from the region. He is secretary of Section 15 of the SNTE [National Trade Union of Education Workers] and is regarded as a follower of Carlos Jonguitud.

Fernando Rodriguez Guerrero, District IV, Huichapan, is the governor's cousin, and it is to the governor that he owes his candidacy.

Matias Cruz Mera, District V, Zimapan, comes from the Ajacuba District of Tula. He has no following and a bad public reputation. In Mexico City he belonged to the federal judicial police along with his brother, Juan Cruz Mera, who was gunned down in Puebla. Both had links to Juan Antonio Zorrilla and also worked in the Federal Security Directorate. Cruz Mera is chief of Interior Secretariat police in Hidalgo and is considered a follower of Ernesto Gil Elorduy.

Margarito Cabrera, District VI, Zacualtipan, is a native of this municipality. He became a candidate thanks to support from Gil Elorduy.

Cristina Garcia Barron, District VII, Metzquititlan, is from Pachuca. She's not a resident of her district and has never held a PRI party post. She's close to Ernesto Gil Elorduy.

Paulino Chavez Martinez, District VIII, Tenango de Doria, doesn't live in his district either. He's from Pachuca, but he has the support of Gil Elorduy.

Omar Pacheco Cortez, District IX, Apan, was born in Mexico City. He's been a state prosecutor in Hidalgo for 5 years. His uncles Hector and Manlio Valdespino Castillo are regional caciques. Another uncle, Roberto Valdespino Castillo, has been charged in the Zorrilla case. His father, whose name he bears, was the main player in two murder-related scandals.

Juan Carlos Alva Calderon, District X, Huejutla, comes from San Agustin Tlaxiaca. Upon learning he'd been selected, Huesteca residents united against him, took over the city hall, and set up roadblocks.

Justino Hernan Mercado, District XI, Actopan, was born in Tianguistengo. He has a reputation as an alchemist [an expert in rigging elections], is a follower of Gil Elorduy, and a friend of Jose Guadarrama Marquez, conventions secretary of the PRI National Executive Committee.

Jose Guadalupe Salinas Perez, District XII, Molango, was born in Pachuca and is the labor representative on the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation. At 9:45 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 December, an alleged "Interior Secretariat official" phoned him to ask how he planned to run his campaign. "I don't know a thing," he replied. "Napoleon Gomez Z. told me to go see Gil Elorduy, and he told me I was going to be a legislator."

Alfonso Martin Lozano, District XIII, Ixmiquilpan, is actually a native of this municipality as well as its former mayor. Originally, Eduardo Garcia Gomez, who is president of the State Supreme Court and has close links to Gil Elorduy, was going to run. Then the interior secretary picked Marin Lozano, another of his followers, so Garcia Gomez would not have to relinquish his position on the court.

Maria Guadalupe Sliva de Paz, District XIV, Jacala, was born in Mineral del Monte. She has no following and has not lived in the district, but she does have the support of Gil Elorduy.

Jesus Pliego Calva, District XIV, Atotonilco el Grande, is from Santa Maria Amajac where his relatives own a supposedly miraculous hot bath. They build shrines where "apparitions" have occurred and deal in prehistoric animal fossils.

Despite this cast of characters, the political problem in Hidalgo is far more serious than the issue of imposed candidates in the state legislature, says PRD leader Roberto Meza Garcia.

In the absence of a governor, he explains, Gil Elorduy wields power. He's turned the police, and especially the riot control

units, into an invasion force that has occupied every town in the state. Torture is regularly used in the backrooms of the judicial police, whose agents search houses and arrest citizens without warrants. Higher and lower courts alike refuse to take action in any cases for less than a million pesos. There are private citizens who have been languishing in municipal jails for more than 2 years without being charged. With the government in control of the mass media, people have nowhere to air their complaints.

Meza Garcia has released a list of community leaders who have been jailed and tortured for organizing protests in several municipalities. In the Mezquital Valley alone, he says leaders of 42 of the area's 94 communities are being persecuted for organizing and leading public protests.

Since there's no governor, he adds, Gil Elorduy assumes power and governs by force. People overcome by desperation have had to seek protection from people who up until recently were regarded as the state's thugs and villains: the University Group. City dwellers, bureaucrats, storekeepers, street hawkers, peasants, and even 15 mayors have joined with them to protest the PRI's antidemocratic behavior and its imposition of legislative candidates.

Meza Garcia asserts that the new thugs are the police units who do the bidding of Gil Elorduy. As an example of public uneasiness in Hidalgo, he displayed a file with more than 200 complaints of attacks on buses traveling the state's highways in 1989 alone.

Gil Elorduy, he adds, has even united the PRI, including the caciques and the University Group, in opposition to him. And if we recall that in the 1988 federal elections, the National Democratic Front beat the PRI in half the state, we must conclude that the PRD, faced with a divided PRI, would probably win a majority in the state legislature.

For the time being, dissident PRI supporters are close to rebellion. They're planning a mass meeting in Pachuca for the first week in January to protest the imposition of legislative candidates.

While awaiting election day, 21 January, the governor has taken refuge in San Joaquin and only meets and talks with Gil Elorduy. The latter has had government buildings, vehicles, and even official stationery painted in the colors Lugo Verduzco has espoused as his own: one band of gray and one band of green. People remark that this is a reflection of his governorship: pale gray and greenish.

El Salvador

Cristiani Announces Lifting of Curfew 1 Feb

PA3101000090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2313 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador 30 Jan (ACAN - EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani announced today that the curfew will be lifted on 1 February because he believes "the reasons that caused its imposition have been overcome." The curfew has been in force for 81 days.

Cristiani said that "even though one always receives information about some actions by the guerrillas and their reconcentration near San Salvador, we believe the Armed Forces have been able to counteract these threats."

The curfew was established on 12 November, 1 day after the beginning of one of the most important guerrilla offensives in the last decade, which mainly affected the country's cities, including San Salvador.

"The Armed Forces have the necessary means to control any action by the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front)," the president said today prior to leaving for the United States.

When it was established in November the curfew was 12 hours long, but it was later gradually reduced to 4 hours.

Nevertheless, Cristiani's announcement contrasts with remarks by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, who has said the FMLN will launch new attacks in the last week of January and the first week of February.

In addition to the curfew, the government also established the state of emergency, which has been extended twice by the Legislative Assembly.

Holds News Conference

PA3101041490 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0305 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Report by Alfredo Villareal on news conference by President Alfredo Cristiani at Comalapa Airport on 30 January—recorded]

[Text] [Villarreal] President Alfredo Cristiani announced today that the curfew will be lifted on 1 February. He made the announcement shortly before boarding the plane that will take him to the United States.

[Cristiani] The curfew will be lifted beginning on 1 February. We believe there is no need to have a curfew from 0000 to 0400.

[Villarreal] Regarding the state of emergency, the president said the decision on this issue rests exclusively with the Legislative Assembly, which should assess the effects of this measure on the current situation in the country. The president made his statements during an improvised news conference at the Comalapa Airport VIP Room shortly before boarding the TACA Airlines plane that will take him to the United States. Cristiani is traveling to New York and Washington accompanied by a delegation made up of the defense minister, the foreign minister, Mrs. Margarita de Cristiani, the deputy planning minister, and the president's private secretary, Arthur Tona.

The work agenda includes a meeting tomorrow in New York with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and a meeting in Washington with President George Bush on 1 February. The tour will last 10 days. During the news conference, Cristiani said it is possible that the dialogue with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], one of the main objectives of this tour, could be resumed before March.

[Cristiani] I think it is feasible. As far as we are concerned, we will express to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar that the government of the Republic has been willing and continues to be willing to resume the dialogue in search for a solution to the conflict. During a telephone conversation I had with him, he conveyed his opinion, saying that he is willing to do all he can so the dialogue is resumed—as all Central American presidents have requested. In addition, the FLMN has given some positive indications. Therefore, I believe that if we can combine these elements, we can resume the dialogue in a relatively short time.

[Villarreal] The president added that during his talks with President Bush he will discuss the possibilities of additional aid to El Salvador to fight drug trafficking.

[Cristiani] During the first 15 days of this month we signed an executive decree establishing the Narcotics Commission. We are already in the process of requesting the Legislative Assembly's approval of the budget. We believe that by establishing this commission to control drug trafficking and drug consumption in the country, there will be some aid available in the United States for this kind of program, which is outside the current aid package. There are other issues, such as the possibility of getting U.S. support for our policy, especially in the peace process at the regional level, as well as at the strictly domestic level.

[Villarreal] Cristiani said his message to U.S. Congressmen will be to thoroughly explain to them the events in our country, and to deny the current international campaign concerning the persecution of churches in El Salvador.

President Cristiani said that during talks with his Guatemalan counterpart Vinicio Cerezo they agreed to study the possibility of not requiring visas for Salvadoran and Guatemalan citizens to enter each other's countries.

Police Describe Alleged Evidence Against Casolo

PA3001175890 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 21 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] The National Police announced on 20 January that it has abundant evidence of the guilt of U.S. citizen Jennifer

Jean Casolo, who was arrested on 24 November in her home in the Miralvalle neighborhood of this capital, where a large number of weapons and a great quantity of documents belonging to the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] were found buried in the yard.

Casolo was arraigned 8 days [as published] after her arrest, but was released by the judge "for lack of evidence," according to the judicial records.

Although in Salvadoran judicial circles it is not clear why Casolo was released, it is believed that there were political factors involved.

At present, Casolo heads groups that have launched a virulent campaign against El Salvador in the United States, claiming alleged "religious persecution."

Casolo was captured after the terrorist Fausto Gallardo Valdez gave her name to the police, telling them where to find the weapons that he and his accomplices used for terrorist acts. The prisoner said that the weapons were provided by Casolo at her home in the Miralvalle neighborhood, which served as a clandestine arsenal.

In view of this confession, the police requested the participation of representatives of the U.S. Embassy, who were present in the course of the proceedings and when the weapons were dug up in front of Casolo herself.

When Casolo returned to the United States, she admitted that she had buried documents in the yard of the house where she lived, but she lied by saying that she did this because "in El Salvador people commonly bury documents or jewels to keep them from being stolen by criminals."

Sources say that at present, at the head of groups of communists from the United States and other countries who support their Salvadoran counterparts, Casolo has begun a nationwide campaign to discredit the Salvadoran Governrment and to pressure Congress to reduce or eliminate aid to our country to weaken the country institutionally and strengthen the FMLN-FDR terrorist groups.

The police report that the terrorist Gallardo Valdez, from whom weapons and ammounition were seized on 24 November, said that he had obtained the weapons at the home of a woman who appeared to be a foreigner on Barcelona Avenue, Miralvalle neighborhood, in San Salvador.

That same day, police investigators located the house, identified the person living there, and invited U.S. Embassy officials to participate in the search.

Buried at the house they found 103 shells for 60-mm mortars, 213 sticks of TNT, 405 electric detonating caps, 150 feet of slow fuses, 15 knives, 3 cartridge clips for AK-47 rifles, 12,510 AK-47 shells, 9,110 M-16 rifle shells, 325 G-3 rifle shells, and documents.

In her unofficial statement, Casolo said that she did not belong to any subversive group or association and that she did not know how the articles came to be in her house.

On 5 December, Casolo and a group of Salvadorans were arraigned before a military judge, who 5 days later released them "for lack of evidence."

On 9 December, policemen arrested a woman named Ruth Esperanza Aguilar Marroquin, alias Marina, who was fleeing after having placed a bomb in the engine of a bus. On being questioned, she said she was an active member of the People's Revolutionary Army, that the person in charge of logistics was the American, Casolo, and that she had obtained the explosive material at Casolo's home in Miralvalle.

The police have denied Casolo's charges that during her detention she was subjected to physical and psychological torture, because it can prove that while Casolo was under arrest, she was accompanied by an embassy official, even at mealtime.

Commentary Criticizes Carter; Views Perestroyka

PA3101153590 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 23 Jan 90 p 7

[From the "Today's Note" column]

[Text] As Jimmy Carter stated a few days ago, war is the cruelest of all human rights violations; now is the time to seek peace, but a peace that respects the dignity of citizens in line with civilized life.

We agree with Archbishop Rivera y Damas that "war will only bring more destruction and death; this is why we must end the war; otherwise, war will destroy us."

It is said that there has been no war between two democratic nations since World War I. Invariably, war has been sparked by attacks by dictatorial and autocratic regimes against its neighbors or as the result of aggressive and crazy attacks against an established government.

It is not difficult to predict, in paraphrasing Gironella, that "peace will explode" in our hemisphere as soon as dictatorships vanish from the world, especially the two remaining dictatorships in our hemisphere. The aggression against El Salvador is not abating because of the continuous support given by Cuba and Nicaragua to the guerrillas. This support will end once the dramatic effects of change in the East begin to be felt. Castro is in no position to embark on adventures when the stability of his own regime is at stake.

Talks with barbarians will not save El Salvador, but the unavoidable political, economic, and military repercussions that stem from the collapse of communism in East Europe and the beginning of a new phase of world detente will. The rhetoric of people such as Carter will not save us, but Gorbachev's perestroyka, which was the catalyst for the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, the

execution of Ceausescu, and the dissolution of the communist parties of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Romania will.

It has been said that the East bloc's aid to Castro, excluding that of the USSR, was not more than 10 percent of Soviet aid to Cuba, which is estimated at $15 million per day. Ten percent does not seem to be an important contribution until we analyze its content.

Cuba has received from the East European countries nearly all its high technology, computers, industrial plants, vehicle spare parts, specialized training, chemicals, medicines, communications systems, and so on. Remember that the Bulgarians were the experts in commercial and war planes and the East Germans organized, trained, and managed police services. However, with former communist dictators Honecker and Zhivkov in jail, charged with treason and the secret police of their governments dismantled, Castro lost vital elements for the operation of a modern state—for the large concentration camp that the island of Cuba still is.

Despite the "strategy of a war of low intensity" and indecision to end the conflict, history is putting a definite end to this horrendous and inhuman episode that Central America fell into as a result of the policies of Mr Carter, who continues to pontificate on war and "human rights." Despite the campaigns of U.S. churches and the media, we are gradually getting closer to ending the conflict.

The country's active segments must now unite to defend legality, law, and democracy. Although reaching an understanding with criminals has its value and should be a goal under certain circumstances, the preservation of a republican and just way of life should come before any interest. At a given time it could be argued in good faith that "the socialist bloc" offered valid options, but those dreams collapsed with the Romanian uprising, the incredible developments in Prague, and the million people chanting by the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. The Salvadoran church is aware of this reality. We now only need the San Salvador Archbishopric to join in to condemn an ideology and political system that are to blame for shedding the blood of and destroying our fatherland.

Zamora on Political Solution to Conflict

PA3001180990 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Report by Rosalba Cartagena]

[Text] Dr. Ruben Zamora, leader of the Popular Social Christian Movement [MPSC], said over the weekend that the resumption of the dialogue is the only way to achieve peace in El Salvador. Zamora said the FMLN's latest offensive yielded no positive results for either side. According to the leader, the only rational solution of the conflict is negotiations, which can be conducted by uniting the contending political forces.

[Begin Zamora recording] The FMLN military offensive launched in November has demonstrated that neither of the two sides achieved a military victory. The solution must be a political one. Otherwise, the country will continue to be more and more immersed in this escalating violence that is destroying it. We regard the next 6 months as being of a political nature. We will have to make a great and renewed effort to truly initiate a process of negotiation to end the war. As part of the negotiation effort, the MPSC is calling all democratic and patriotic forces to agree on the need to ensure the progress of the struggle for peace and a negotiated political solution. [end recording]

Regarding the trial of the military men involved in the assassination of the Jesuits, Zamora said the fact that those responsible were handed over to the courts is a positive step. Nevetheless, he described the investigation as insufficient.

[Begin Zamora recording] We think it highly unlikely that only one colonel made all of the decisions in this case. We have sometimes wondered if Colonel Benavides, even if he is involved, is being used as a scapegoat and as a cover for others. In addition, and I think this might be of greater importance, it was necessary to assassinate six Jesuits and create an international and local scandal and commotion to take a colonel to court. This is an extremely inefficient method in the long run to carry out a true purge of the Armed Forces. [end recording]

Zamora made these remarks upon returning from his tour through Europe, where he visited the governments of Spain, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom and where he observed a true concern over the human rights situation in El Salvador. He also saw that these countries are convinced that the solution for eliminating the war must be political. He said that the European democratic governments want to contribute toward and support a negotiation process that could bring about peace in El Salvador.

[According to a Panama City ACAN report in Spanish transmitted on 20 Janauray at 2118 GMT, datleined San Salvador, Zamora said the "conditions for a negotiated political solution in El Salvador are now much better but that, all the same, the war could continue for an indefinite time and destroy the country more and more" if a speedy solution is not found.]

FMLN Reaffirms Willingness To End Hostilities

PA3001194190 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In 10 years of war, the Salvadoran Army has never needed U.S. dollars as much as now. The cause is undoubtedly the 11 November offensive launched by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. Although Army propaganda claims that it has inflicted a harsh blow on the FMLN, the military weaklings know this is not so; they might be surprised again sooner or later.

Roberto D'Aubuisson has reappeared after 2 months of absence in the press, saying that should aid to El Salvador not be approved, the United States would only be benefitting the FMLN. He added that the Jesuits' case has been resolved, and, thus aid should be granted:

[D'Aubuisson recording indistinct]

D'Aubuisson and the United States have been historically incompatible. In urging approval of U.S. aid to El Salvador, he compared the Salvadoran Air Force action in San Salvador to that of the U.S. Air Force in Panama:

[D'Aubuisson recording indistinct]

The Army has never needed and been so desperate for dollars. D'Aubuisson joined the crowd to ask for them. Colonel (Corado) of Military Detachment No. 4 has said that aid is needed, however, that aid seems to be justified even with inventions and lies.

On the Cuscatlan radio network, the military leaders only hours ago said that the FMLN is not capable of launching another offensive. That argument abruptly changed when Colonel Ponce said that another offensive is expected this weekend. Inocente Montano, [deputy defense and public security minister], yesterday said that an offensive could take place this weekend, next weekened, or within 15 days.

[Begin Montano recording] I think the terrorists might do it this weekend, next week, or in 2 weeks. I do not know. They make plans for the best possible time. The best possible time is when the security forces are not watching. [end recording]

While the Salvadoran military officers keep talking endlessly, a difficult debate over the aid continues in the U.S. Congress. This aid has been strongly criticized by the Democrats, who have introduced other proposals to settle the Salvadoran conflict. For the U.S. Government, two great questions are still to be answered: What will they do? Will they vote additional aid for this Army, which is equivalent to voting for war? Or will they vote for democracy by suspending this aid once and for all?

Our proposal to stop hostilities in return for a definitive suspension of the U.S. Government aid still stands.

Police Detain FMLN Funds Collector

PA3001170290 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 29 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] Jose Orlando Linares Rodas, who has identified himself as "secretary of a church organization," was detained by the Treasury Police on 23 January and charged with belonging to a clandestine organization that collaborates with the ERP [People's Revolutionary Army], one of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] factions.

The man, who was presented to the press on 27 January, told the reporters that his work consisted of gathering funds for his religious organization.

Linares said he was recruited by Celia Medrano, "a member of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission," to work to gather funds in Christian communities, where he also worked to indoctrinate youths.

He said the youths he indoctrinated were recruited into the ERP.

The authorities warned the population of the danger of being deceived by individuals like this, who disguise their activities under the pretense of working for religious organizations.

Linares said he "pretended that his work was pastoral."

Rivera y Damas Reports New Death Threats

PA3001165490 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 22 Jan 90 p 6

[Text] Salvadoran Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas has again reported that he has received death threats through his secretaries or the archbishopric's cooks, "but, in this regard, I feel reassured and I am in God's hands," the pastor said.

Nevertheless, he acknowledged that the persecution against the church in general has decreased, although this does not mean it has disappeared. He recalled that many priests have died in the last 10 years, including an archbishop, "but martyrs' blood is Christians' seed," Rivera y Damas said.

The archbishop said that he received many complaints because of the church's stance on the Jesuits' assassination, but today "everyone knows that the archbishopric was right in pointing out where it believed the assassins were located. This assumption was confirmed by President Cristiani who, in keeping his promise to carry out a thorough investigation, has earned the world's recognition."

In another part of his homily, he stated: "Being a bishop of a nation that has suffered the scourge of a fratricidal war for 10 years implies having mercy for human suffering above and beyond political, economic, and ideological considerations; and that is a commitment we cannot give up."

The archbishop said that one of the church's most important events this week is the episcopal conference of El Salvador, which concluded with an appeal for peace; and the arraignment of the military officers accused of the Jesuits' death.

The meeting was held with special interest, particularly as it was revealed that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) sent a letter to the bishops asking for the church's mediation in its efforts to renew the dialogue.

"I believe that Cristiani's meeting with the UN secretary general and the FMLN's meeting with the same official are important," Msgr. Rivera y Damas said. He insisted: "We have to end this war in a rational way, through a dialogue, before the war ends us."

Explosion in Santa Tecla Causes Property Damage

PA3101035590 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Urban guerrilla commando units planted an explosive device at the Santa Tecla branch of the Gold Tree Liebes Store tonight. The explosion, which only caused heavy damage to the store's front door, took place at 1915 at the intersection of 4th Street West and 4th Avenue South.

Guatemala

Cerezo on Fuel Prices, Salaries, Killings

PA3001171690 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 23 Jan 90 p 10

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Jan (National Palace)—President Vinicio Cerezo said today that "there will be no increase in fuel prices," thus confirming the statement given yesterday, 21 January, by Energy and Mines Minister Raul Castaneda.

The president added: "What happened was a result of speculation. The gas station owners expected the prices would increase when the quetzal's exchange rate changed, but it did not happen."

He said that "the problem will be solved in a short time because the government of the Republic has taken charge of the foreign exchange differential so that it has no impact on the population."

Referring to the workers' demands for a salary increase, President Cerezo said that "we are facing problems in granting the increase because the 1990 budget has not been approved."

Cerezo added: "The executive branch will make the necessary contacts with the Congress of the Republic to solve the problem by requesting a budget extension and getting the necessary funds to grant a salary increase in the government sector."

President Vinicio Cerezo will personally supervise the investigating commission that was created last week to solve the double murder perpetrated on 19 January, which resulted in the death of Salvadoran political leader Hector Oqueli Colindres and Guatemalan lawyer Gilda Amparo Flores Arevalo.

The announcement was personally issued by the president in statements he gave to the media this morning in one of the National Palace hallways.

Oqueli Colindres was a member of the National Revolutionary Movement of El Salvador and he was one of the Socialist International secretaries for Latin America.

The investigation commission is comprised of three representatives of the National Defense and Government ministries, the attorney general of the nation, the human rights attorney, and the National Police and Treasury Police directors general.

President Cerezo said: "The commission's task is to clear all doubts and prove that the government has had absolutely nothing to do with the kidnapping and subsequent assassination of these two persons."

Cerezo reasserted that "all doubts will be cleared up concerning this grave act of violence because the government had no participation whatsoever. The government is not interested in eliminating anyone."

The investigating commission has immediately begun work. The president emphasized that "he will personally supervise the work being carried out to guarantee the national government's firm intention of not letting this crime, which has been condemned by all the sectors of the nation, go unpunished."

Socialist International Delegation Arrives

PA3101000890 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Members of a delegation of the Socialist International arrived in Guatemala on 22 January and met with President Vinicio Cerezo at Santo Tomas, the presidential farm in Esquintla, to request that the 12 January murder of Salvadoran political leader Hector Oqueli Colindres be investigated thoroughly and solved soon. This delegation is made up of Chilean Luis Ayala, who heads it, Salvadoran leader Guillermo Ungo, Venezuelan Deputy Timoteo Zambrano, and FRG political leader (Wolfgang Deger).

On 23 January, the visitors will meet with Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo, and Ramiro De Leon Carpio, prosecutor for human rights. It was learned that the delegation arrived in Guatemala aboard a Venezuelan plane that President Carlos Andres Perez provided them for this trip.

Nicaragua

Ortega Announces Plan To Free Prisoners

PA3001131190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1158 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The 39 Somozist guardsmen who are still in prison along with 1,051 counterrevolutionaries will be released in the next few days under a decree that President Daniel Ortega will send to the National Assembly today. The president himself announced this after a 1 1/2-hour meeting with the Episcopal Conference at the seat of the curia in Managua.

Ortega said that he made this decision in an effort to strengthen the climate of peace in the country, which is of even greater importance now, in the midst of the electoral campaign.

Reportedly Delaying Release

PA3101010890 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] In his eagerness to obtain more votes, Daniel Ortega promised the bishops of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference on 29 January that this morning he would ask the National Assembly to approve a pardon for political prisoners. Nevertheless, Ortega has again not kept his promise, and he left for a visit to Somoto without sending the official request to the National Assembly, which today only discussed the amendment to a constitutional article to advance the inauguration of the new government that is elected in the 25 February elections.

Leticia Herrera, first secretary of the Nicaraguan parliament, said during today's session that Ortega will probably not make the request until 6 February, and the assembly might debate it that same day.

Ortega promised to release 39 former guardsmen who worked for the Anastasio Somoza dictatorship and more than 1,000 armed rebels of the Nicaraguan resistance.

This will delay the release of the prisoners because the steps for a pardon take time. There must first be a discussion and approval by the National Assembly, and then the decision must be sent to the executive branch, which will then remit it to the jails. This takes several days and probably weeks.

Ortega on 'Normalization' of Relations With U.S.

PA3001224290 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Jan 90 p 7

[Excerpt] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said this morning that the Sandinist Front has already won the 25 February elections and that it only has to go through the formalities on election day.

President Ortega made these statements after receiving the credentials of five new ambassadors accredited to our country.

As for the normalization of relations between Nicaragua and the United States once the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] wins the elections, President Ortega said that this depends on the United States.

Upon stating that if there is political resolve, relations between the two countries can be normalized, Ortega added: "We are here to open a firm, serious, and realistic dialogue during which we are willing to discuss all points that worry the United States and Nicaragua."

President Ortega said that if the United States has been able to establish good relations with the Soviet Union, why is it not possible to do the same with Nicaragua, a nation located in its same hemisphere and particularly interested in developing such good relations?

President Ortega said he is concerned because he wants the U.S. Government to stop arming the contras and threatening Nicaragua.

As for the UNO [National Opposition Union] accusations that the FSLN is preparing for election fraud, Ortega asserted that "those accusations are to be expected, because the UNO people know they have already lost the elections. They are trying to justify their defeat in that way."

Regarding the possible contribution of the new Honduran Government to the demobilization of the contras, Ortega said that the Honduran Government has the obligation to do so because "they signed the peace agreement, and even if that agreement did not exist, Honduras would still have the obligation to get the contras out of its territory, because they are a threat to the security of another state."

President Ortega stated: "I hope the new Honduran president is able to do what his predecessors failed to do, although I admit that former President Azcona made significant efforts to contribute to Central American peace." [passage omitted]

Ortega Calls for Contra Demobilization

PA3101010690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Jan 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] Last night President Daniel Ortega called on the U.S. and Honduran Governments to carry out actions that favor peace, democracy, and life in Nicaragua and to get the contras to demobilize from Honduran territory to ease the peace process in our country and in Central America.

Ortega addressed his traditional new year's message to members of the diplomatic corp and international organizations. He informed them of the Nicaraguan Government's decision to free 1,090 prisoners, including 1,051 counterrevolutionaries and 39 national guardsmen, between 5-15 February 1990.

"With this step the Nicaraguan Government is not only in complete compliance with the peace accords, but it is going a step further," the president said. He also called on the U.S. and Honduran Governments to pressure the contras to free those kidnapped.

President Ortega highlighted the U.S. Administration's decision to grant $3 million to the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV), but he demanded that all the funds approved be assigned to demobilize, repatriate, or relocate the contras, as specified in the agreements signed by the five Central American presidents.

In the main room of the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua, Ortega thanked government and international mission representatives for the peace efforts made by their respective governments as well as for the timely, concrete, and unconditional economic cooperation for the Nicaraguan people.

Ortega added that under these circumstances, when the Nicaraguan Government has taken steps to strengthen a plan that leads to a definitive peace, "we count on you, your governments, and your peoples, so that this united action by the international community may move the U.S. Government to act."

Ortega's message stressed that "now is the time for the U.S. Government to distance itself from the policy of death." Ortega reported to representatives of the international community the killing of an 11-year old boy, 6 reservists, and 1 peasant, as well as the kidnapping of 5 peasants.

"Now is the time (for the United States) to take a firm step toward peace in Central America and Nicaragua, to transfer CIAV funds, and to lift the economic blockade," he stressed.

Ortega also recalled that many former contra leaders are returning to the country, and their statements have been "clear and conclusive" in pointing to the failure of the policy of death and even in recognizing the democratic process of the Nicaraguan Government and revolution.

UN Deputy Secretary General Alvaro Soto, who was in Managua for only a few hours, told BARRICADA that "the announcement (on the prisoners' release) is very important. It is one more phase in compliance with the Esquipulas agreements."

Referring to the call on the U.S and Honduran Governments, he said: "Demobilization is a call made by the five presidents, and we are trying to help ensure the agreements are complied with."

Meanwhile, U.S. Embassy Commercial Attache John Leonard said: "Let us see what happens with the president's announced process." Dr. Jennifer McCoy, a representative of the Carter Center, said: "It is a positive step" and said she hopes that more contras continue to return, thus complying with the demobilization accord.

Further on Ortega-Obando y Bravo Meeting

PA3001151490 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Jan 90 pp 1,4

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, president of the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR), yesterday issued a joint appeal to the Nicaraguan people, urging them to stop the verbal and physical violence in the final phase of the electoral process.

Upon concluding a noon meeting yesterday in the archbishopric, President Ortega invited all citizens and political parties who feel threatened or coerced by any authority or political group to formally lodge a protest with the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] and regional government delegations, without fear of reprisal, to punish such actions, which are alien to the nature of the electoral process.

The president also announced that, once the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] victory is confirmed on 25 February, he will order the release of all contra prisoners and former Somozist guards in prison for their crimes against the people.

Daniel also announced that he will meet with all the Catholic bishops who comprise the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua on Monday 29 January, to discuss several issues with them.

His Eminence Cardinal Obando y Bravo termed these measures as "magnificent" and added: "I agree with this because it will help to achieve reconciliation of the Nicaraguan family. There is no doubt that the person ruling the nation's destiny should work so that we may all love each other and strengthen our brotherhood and fraternal ties."

President Ortega met yesterday with Cardinal Obando y Bravo to talk about different issues of our national life, particularly concerning the final phase of the electoral process.

The president discussed with the cardinal his concern about the threats and coercion being experienced by the people living in zones that are affected by the contras' presence, because the peasants are seriously threatened for participating in political activities and mobilizations. President Ortega said: "That violence must stop so that the peasants may peacefully participate in political activities and cast their ballots on 25 February."

It is necessary to recall that an FSLN electoral official was assassinated this week by the contras in Somoto, Region No. 1, Las Segovias.

Likewise, the president stated his concern about the presence of U.S. troops in Honduras and the fact that they have launched a new phase of maneuvers in 1990.

Daniel denounced that "this violates the spirit of the Central American presidents' agreements" and added: "The United States must help the peace plan progress by withdrawing the U.S. troops from Honduras and allowing Central Americans to solve their own problems without the presence of foreign troops in Central America."

He announced that he would hold a meeting with the Catholic bishops who comprise the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua on 29 January, when he will discuss various issues of our national life that are of interest to all Nicaraguans.

The president also discussed the country's economic situation with the cardinal, emphasizing that, as of today, we have a 7 percent inflation rate when it was expected we would have a rate of 20 percent. "I believe we have made a good start this the year, and we will continue to lift the economy with the participation of all the Nicaraguan producers and workers," he asserted.

On the release of prisoners, the president said: "Certain that the Sandinist Front will win the elections and heeding the demands of His Eminence concerning the release of prisoners, I have informed him that following the elections I am going to release all prisoners linked to the contras and the Somozist National Guard."

In stating his support for the measures announced by President Ortega, Cardinal Obando said: "As a Christian and as archbishop of Managua, I seek man's reconciliation with God and among themselves. You have noticed that I have insisted on the need to keep violence out of our discourse because a discourse of violence may provoke reactions."

The two dignitaries reported that the government has authorized the return to the country of four priests who had been banned, and all this, as His Eminence has said, for the sake of national peace and reconciliation.

Answering questions from newsmen, President Ortega referred to the charges of election fraud by the U.S. Government and the National Opposition Union [UNO] against the Nicaraguan Government by saying that this is an acknowledgment of defeat by someone who already feels defeated and is thinking about how to avoid the electoral challenge."

Concerning the demobilization of the contras, President Ortega said it will be very difficult to achieve total demobilization before 25 February because the U.S. Government is not openly in favor of this effort. He said: "I believe that especially now the demobilization depends on the new Honduran president, on whether he will decide to expel the contras from his territory."

President Ortega characterized as "very important" a recent movement of contra groups that are returning to Nicaragua and accepting the peace plan.

He said that after the 25 February FSLN election victory, the revolution will be consolidated, and the United States will find it more difficult to launch destabilization maneuvers against Nicaragua. Daniel Ortega said: "I believe that they will have to implement a more pragmatic policy and establish normal relations with Nicaragua. Just as they reached an understanding with the Soviets and the East European countries, they have to reach an understanding with Nicaragua."

Asked if Nicaragua would accept the presence of a U.S. congressional delegation to observe the elections, President Ortega said it would be possible the moment the United States lifts its embargo against Nicaragua and transfers the funds it is now giving the contras to wage war to the international organizations implementing the contra demobilization plan.

Quayle Tour Called 'Resounding Failure'

PA3001130090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Here is a report from Washington. U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle yesterday concluded in Jamaica a quick tour of three Latin American countries with resounding failure and without having reduced the tension created by the military invasion of Panama.

After going completely unnoticed at the inauguration of the new Honduran president, Quayle received some unenthusiastic applause in Panama, the rulers of which thanked him for having installed them in power.

The U.S. vice president did not give a definite date for the withdrawal of the occupation troops from Panama, nor did he state for certain that funds would be available to help in the reconstruction of the country in the wake of the military intervention.

However, Quayle obtained his greatest failure yesterday in Jamaica, where he was unable to convince Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley that there would be continued financial aid for that small island. Neither did he get any support for the continued presence of U.S. troops in Panama.

New Government To Be Installed 24-25 April

PA3101011990 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2349 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The new government elected on 25 February will take over on 25 April. The National Assembly today issued a temporary constitutional amendment to modify an article of the Constitution concerning the transfer of power.

Article 201, Paragraph 1, was amended as follows: The president and vice president of the Republic, and the representatives to the National Assembly who are elected on 25 February 1990 will be installed on 24-25 April of the same year, respectively.

Several deputies who are political opportunists—such as Daniel Brenes—objected to this amendment. Brenes said that if the Sandinist Front accepted this amendment, it was accepting the victory of the National Opposition Union, UNO. Guillermo Mejia also criticized the Sandinists and bitterly protested that he was elected representative of the people in the 1984 elections. The political opportunists also criticized Alfredo Cesar, the future president of the Nicaraguan parliament.

Election Council Modifies Campaign Regulations

PA3001222190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1940 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The Nicaraguan Supreme Election Council [CSE] today extended the deadline for the registration of party poll representatives until 8 February. The new deadline will guarantee the participation of all political forces in the 25 February elections.

According to the CSE provisions, the political parties and alliances are allowed to register one party poll representative for every 300 voters.

There will be over 4,000 ballot-receiving boards throughout the country on 25 February. According to CSE data, those boards will receive the votes of 1.72 million voters. In addition, the CSE authorized the Social Christian Party, PSC, to conduct election campaign activities in Army garrisons during hours that do not affect daily military activities.

Similarly, the CSE is studying a proposal to give more television time to all parties, alliances, and associations. This would allow parties and alliances to air television programs during prime time.

Electoral Council Official Explains Vote Counting

PA3101121590 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Dr. Mariano Fiallos, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, said at a news conference that, with the experience gathered from the 1984 elections and thanks to modern equipment, preliminary election results could be available early on 26 February. Vote counting will take place immediately after the last citizen has cast his vote. Then the tally sheets will be prepared and will be distributed among the inspectors [fiscales] and the OAS and UN observers. The vote-receiving councils will send their information by telex, except for the autonomous regions, which will send radiograms.

[Begin unidentified official recording] In the case of other parts of the country, there are 105 municipalities that will send information over 168 telex machines. At the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center we will control and confirm the information received over the telex machines. Here we will verify the correct council code, location, and name of the council president. [end recording]

The national computation center has 29 computers. Each will process the information from 160 vote receiving councils.

[Begin unidentified official recording] We believe that by 1100 on 26 February we should have more than 80 percent of the vote-receiving council information processed. Therefore, by 1800 we probably will have 100 percent processed. At that time we shall have a preliminary list of the winning candidates. [end recording]

About 1,600 employees will work at the regional and national computation centers continuously for 72 hours counting the votes.

Ministry Said Creating Obstacles, Delays

PA3101034690 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] National Conservative Party President Silvano Matamoros, who is also president of the Institute for Electoral Promotion and Instruction [IPCE], has said that all the legal procedures will be complied with but that the Foreign Cooperation Ministry is creating obstacles and delays through legal interpretations so as to prevent the IPCE from obtaining its legal status.

Matamoros said the IPCE has presented new documents and application forms at the Ministry of Foreign Cooperation in an effort to obtain its legal status as soon as possible and thus be able to receive a donation.

The IPCE is a civic institution that seeks to reinforce electoral systems and develop Nicaraguan democracy in all its aspects. Its existence will continue beyond the 25 Februrary elections, as it will be a permanent organization for the development and strengthening of democracy in our country.

Matamoros added that the IPCE will be a support organization for all the civic organizations that currently exist in the country so that the Nicaraguan people can learn to handle democracy, know it more in depth, and live within it.

The IPCE was just recently founded, but in its short life it has been of great importance for the democratic process not only in Nicaragua, but in all of Latin America.

Managua Press Election Review for 25 Jan

PA3001212290

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of selected reports published in the Managua press on 25 January dealing with the Nicaraguan election campaign. Press reports on major developments in the election will be processed and filed separately by FBIS Panama Bureau.

The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] newspaper BARRICADA continued to report on the FSLN electoral campaign in its 25 January issue. A page 4 story reports the inauguration of a "Conference on Democracy and the Elections," focusing on the opening speeches by Commander Leticia Herrera, acting president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, and by Argentine citizen Dr. Beinusz Smuckler, who is the "president of the American Association of Jurists." According to the paper, Commander Herrera denounced the U.S. Government's attempt to influence the electoral process "by means of intimidation, pressure, and the contra's threats against the Nicaraguan peasants," pointing out that "military defense of the fatherland is the foremost

expression of participation and representation, which are the pillars of participatory democracy." For his part, Dr. Smuckler said that "while U.S. troops have intervened in three countries in a scant 3 months—in El Salvador, the Philippines, and Panama—Nicaragua in turn has been a responsible promoter of the Central American peace process, has demonstrated a willingness to uphold international law and signed agreements, and has continuously resorted to international jurisdiction for the resolution of conflicts."

On page 6 of the 25 January issue, BARRICADA carries a dispatch by T. Rothschuh datelined Juigalpa-Boaco. The story is on a 24 January visit by U.S. Political Counsellor Gerald McCulloch to these departmental capitals "to give advice to the National Opposition Union [UNO] representatives in the region." The dispatch notes that McCulloch did not meet with representatives of all the parties that form the UNO alliance, but only "with the well-known clique that manages the dollars received from the U.S. Government for the financing of the electoral campaign, among them Delvis Montiel and National Guard member Joaquin Lovo." Rothschuh writes that this visit "is clear evidence of the Bush government's meddling in our country's internal affairs, particularly in the electoral process."

For its part, according to a story on page 4 of the same issue of BARRICADA, the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] has announced that the vote-counting procedure that will be used for the elections "is so efficient that the initial results will be available by 2000 and the figures from at least 26 percent of the Ballot Boards will be available by 2300 that very day, 25 February."

In a front-page editorial in its 25 January issue, the progovernment newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO says that "overwhelmed by the polls in his own country that show that the FSLN unquestionably will be the winner of the 25 February elections, Mr. Bush is requesting more dollars for the rightist coalition." The editorial advises "Mr. Bush" to "hang on to your dollars," because "it is not a question of money. Dollars overthrew Manley in Jamaica and Allende in Chile, but dollars cannot put down revolutions: Remember Vietnam!" Noting that "Mr. Reagan did the same thing with the contras, demanding more and more dollars of military aid for his mercenaries," the editorial says that although "the popular saying claims that one does not make the same mistake twice, this obviously does not hold true for U.S. presidents."

An article by Jaime Perez Alonso on page 2 of the 25 January issue of EL NUEVO DIARIO warns readers that there might be a "diabolical plan" to use Violeta de Chamorro—the widow of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, the "martyr of public rights"—to attract voters, and then have her resign because of ill health so that the Presidency can be filled by Virgilio Godoy instead. Perez Alonso says that this would be a "tragic ending," and asks the people to think twice before casting their vote on 25 February.

For its part, in an editorial in its 25 January issue, the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA criticizes the Armed Forces and the Education Ministry, describing them as the "perfect pair to be used by a political-military regime to repress the people. On the one hand, arms for repression, on the other, schools for persuasion. Repression and persuasion, weapons and books—a perfect pair indeed." The editorial says that the Armed Forces have "already started to intimidate the opposition," and that the Education Ministry was trying to resume classes early so that the FSLN could wage a "dishonest electoral campaign" among the students, who "represent a large percentage of votes in the coming elections."

Media Coverage of Ortega Campaign 22-26 Jan

PA3001180190

[Editorial Report] Following is a report on Managua voice and press coverage of campaign activities by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on 22-26 January.

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 22 January publishes on page 5 a 600-word report on Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) presidential candidate Daniel Ortega's visit to Quilali, San Juan de Rio Coco, and Telpaneca Municipality "where about 19,000 people welcomed President Ortega during a historic tour as part of the electoral campaign." The BARRICADA report adds that "approximately 30 Somozist Guards had been instructed to infiltrate the rally, but their plans were foiled by efficient actions by state security and the EPS (Sandinist People's Army). With this attitude, the contras were threatening with death President Ortega and Sandinist candidates," BARRICADA reported.

Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 24 January reports that "San Carlos, Rio San Juan residents yesterday offered an overwhelming welcome" for candidate Ortega." Thousands of women, men, children, and elderly citizens were said to form a human wall to acclaim President Ortega at the 13 October Stadium during his campaign tour through Special Zone 3. The station adds that "after a friendly dialogue with thousands of followers, President Daniel Ortega toured the main streets accompanied by the heroic population."

Managua Sistema Sandinista de Television de Nicaragua in Spanish at 0200 GMT on 24 January reports that "thousands of workers, peasants, fishermen, and businessmen in Rio San Juan welcomed" the FSLN candidate. The station adds that "President Ortega referred to the new mode of aggression based on giving millions of dollars to UNO (National Opposition Union) to buy the elections." Ortega assured Rio San Juan residents that the contras would definitely withdraw on 25 February. He added: "We will finish burying them on 25 February when residents of El Castillo, San Miguelito, San Carlos, and all the Nicaraguan people cast their votes for slot No. 5."

Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 25 January reports that tens of Ometepe and Altagracia

residents vigorously welcomed President Ortega during his tour to the area, accompanied by councilmen and deputy candidates. Ortega also visited Urbaite, where he inaugurated a new health center. Thousands of followers shouted slogans to express support for the FSLN candidates. During a dialogue with area residents, the FSLN candidate "announced that diversified production will increase this year by $20 million."

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 25 January on page 1 publishes a 700-word report on candidate Daniel Ortega's tour of Altagracia and Moyogalpa, on Ometepe Island, where "over 12,000 citizens welcomed Ortega." Ortega told islanders that "productive investments, machinery, and fertilizer will come with peace; he urged them to chose ballots for slot No. 5 when casting their votes." Ortega referred to the UNO Somozist politicians saying: "They cannot manage the money the Yankees give to them; it disappears, vanishes. How could they administer the country's economy?"

After claiming that the FSLN wants "unity and reconciliation among all Nicaraguans," he denounced the Yankee plan to "launch the contras from one side and UNO from the other to force us to disarm, so that they can finish off the people." If there is no war, Ortega said, people would not be killed. He blamed the yankees and UNO for the assassination of thousands of Nicaraguans." Ortega also visited Moyogalpa, where all town residents awaited him. He explained "in clear and plain language, the FSLN message, to clarify it for those who may be confused," according to the BARRICADA report.

Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 26 January reports that "FSLN Candidate Daniel Ortega was welcomed last night by about 20,000 Old Chinandega residents who gathered in the Central Park to express support to him." During his electoral tour of this municipality, Commander Ortega explained the "campaign of slander UNO is carrying out to confuse people and hinder the electoral process." Ortega said that UNO is "offering to eliminate Patriotic Military Service so that the contras can continue to kill people." Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1930 GMT on 23 January report that "National Reconciliation Commission member Erick Ramirez, a Social Christian Party presidential candidate, condemned any criminal attack against President Daniel Ortega, who is also the FSLN presidential candidate. Ramirez maintained that an attack of such nature would only bring a bloodbath, which would neither harm the ruling party nor benefit the Nicaraguan opposition."

Media Report Results of Various Election Polls

PA3101033190

[Editorial Report] Nicaraguan media have recently reported the results of various public opinion polls related to the 25 February elections.

The opposition Managua newspaper LA PRENSA on 26 January carried on the front page an approximately 300-word report entitled "UNO (National Opposition Union) Victory Certain." The report says that based on two independent surveys, UNO presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro will win the elections.

The report says that according to a poll conducted in late December by the Institute of Electoral Promotion and Control (IPCE) Chamorro had a 7-point lead over Daniel Ortega. It adds that those results could not be published before because the Sandinist government delayed for several weeks a visa for Victor Borge, a Costa Rican who conducted the survey. According to Borge, 37 percent of Nicaraguans favor Chamorro, while only 30 percent favor Ortega, with 30 percent still undecided.

The same LA PRENSA report adds that another poll conducted in late December and early January by the Venezuelan Public Opinion Institute showed Violeta ahead of Ortega by 8 points. This poll gave Chamorro 41 percent of the vote, Ortega 33 percent, with 15 percent undecided.

Managua Radio Catolica on 26 January carried a report on remarks by IPCE President Silviano Matamoros regarding recent polls that indicated that the FSLN would win the elections. Matamoros opined that polls paid for by the Sandinists will logically show the FSLN ahead.

Managua Radio Sandino on 26 January carried a report on a poll conducted by Research and Opinion Polls, ECO, which was based on 6,000 interviews carried out in various parts of the country. In reporting on the poll, Jesuit Priest Pedro Marchetti said that the results indicated that the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, would win the elections by a margin of 67.8 percent. He added that the UNO would not win even if it received all the votes of the 25 percent who are still undecided.

Hamburg DPA in Spanish on 28 January carried an approximately 400-word report on the results of four separate polls, two of which favored Chamorro and two Ortega. DPA reported the results of the polls as follows:

Polling Company	Ortega	Chamorro	Undecided
Greenberg - Lake (U.S.)	51	24	16
Central American University - ECO (Nicaragua)	54	18	25
Victor Borge (Costa Rica)	30	37	30
DOXSA (Venezuela)	33	41	15

Managua Radio Corporacion on 29 January reported on comments made by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo regarding recent election polls in the country. Obando questioned the validity of the recent polls, saying that their results depended on who was conducting them.

Bayardo Arce on UNO Funding Capability

PA3001165590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce, head of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] election campaign effort, today challenged the National Endowment for Democracy [NED] to deny, if it can, that it has financed the National Opposition Union [UNO] and that this coalition has money for its election campaign.

Commander Arce said that the funds are in the personal accounts of the UNO board of directors.

[Arce] "Let NED deny that it supplied $3.5 million to the UNO parties and that it has been financing the opposition since 1985.

I invite you to get in touch with Mr Tutcher, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation delegate, and ask him if he can deny my report on the money that he (?illegally) gave the opposition in 1989."

[Reporter] "[Words indistinct] the week?"

[Arce] "No. It was during a news conference last Friday. I also urge you to look up the opposition leaders I mentioned here by name and ask them if they can deny that they have received the money I mentioned."

[Reporter] "They have not denied it?"

[Arce] "That is right."

[Reporter] "They have not denied it."

[Arce] "They are not going to deny it, so now Bush is trying to put on a show and say that the UNO is a poor thing, and there goes the lady in her wheelchair to Costa Rica to ask for money; only they have money. What they have to do is to withdraw it from abroad, from the private accounts where they have it."

Arce said that UNO's crying about lack of funds is nothing but a U.S. maneuver in view of the imminent election defeat of the coalition.

[Arce] "This is a maneuver. The gringos have already realized that their new project has failed. First they tried the contras, and they failed. Now they have tried UNO, but they realize they have failed again.

"The pollsters who have come here, this Mr. Greenberg, are people who enjoy much prestige in the United States. He has made predictions on election results in countries very close to the United States. In El Salvador he predicted the victory of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, and in Paraguay he predicted the victory of Rodriguez.

"Aware of this situation, the United States is desperately mounting shows to see if a new situation is produced. I do not know if they are going to say they are not going to accept the situation. This is an old and senseless position. The UNO is also saying that it is desperate and without funds."

Central Bank Communique on UNO Donations

PA3101045090 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jan 90 p 4

[Communique issued by the Central Bank in Managua on 18 January]

[Text] In view of false information disseminated by print and voice media regarding the mishandling and retention of funds—coming from U.S. Government donations—deposited by the National Opposition Union (UNO) and the Institute for Electoral Promotion and Instruction (IPCE), the Central Bank of Nicaragua;

Clarifies:

1. For reasons related to banking ethics, we will not make reference to sums of money, dates of deposits, names of foreign banks on which checks were drawn, or dates of submission of documents required by all banks in order to open a bank account.

2. It is a common banking practice that when a client deposits a check drawn on a foreign bank, the bank sends that check through its correspondent banks to be cleared by the bank on which the check is drawn. It is only after the local bank receives confirmation that the check has cleared that the client is allowed access to these funds.

3. This is so, first, because when the bank receives the checks it does not yet have the funds to cash them; and, second, because the bank does not know whether the checks it is receiving have funds to back them or whether the issuing signatures on the checks are legitimate.

4. The time it takes for a check drawn on a foreign bank to clear depends on the geographical location of the bank on which the check is drawn. Because of the embargo imposed by the U.S. Government, if the bank is in the United States, it sometimes takes more than 20 (twenty) days to clear the check. For that reason, and to accelerate the process and provide better service to our clients, we usually make telephone calls or send telexes to our correspondent banks in order to accelerate the cashing of the checks that were sent for clearance, as has been done in the current case.

It is important to clarify that when funds are received in the form of a money transfer from abroad, the funds are immediately credited to the account holder.

5. In spite of the aforementioned statements, in the specific case of UNO and IPCE, the Central Bank of Nicaragua in advance—thanks to a special decision made by the Nicaraguan Government and at no charge—credited significant amounts of money to the said organizations. The funds were credited, although up to this day we have not received a clearance for the checks deposited by UNO and IPCE, which were sent to the banks on which the checks were drawn in due time.

In practice, the cashing of these checks is a loan on which no interest has been charged, despite the national financial situation and even though neither UNO nor IPCE are eligible for bank loans.

6. Regarding the receipt of all foreign donations, the Central Bank of Nicaragua has acted in accordance with the provisions of the law for the registration of loans, donations, and financial assistance, which has been in effect since 1981. The Central Bank has also acted in accordance with the regulations and procedures for handling foreign donations, which have been in effect since 1986.

After abiding by the aforementioned legal provisions, the Central Bank of Nicaragua delivers the funds in accordance with monetary norms and after obtaining an authorization from the Foreign Cooperation Ministry, which oversees compliance with requirements regarding the legal status of the recipient, the type of donation, etc.

The Central Bank of Nicaragua could release the corresponding documents linked with these cases upon request of any appropriate authority.
Managua, 18 January 1990
Central Bank of Nicaragua

Baena Soares Arrives for Election Preparations

PA3001214590 Paris AFP in Spanish 2055 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 30 Jan (AFP)—OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares began a 3-day visit to Nicaragua today to monitor preparations for the 25 February general elections.

On arrival in Managua today, Baena described as "very positive" a pardon granted yesterday by President Daniel Ortega to all political prisoners, who will be released before the elections.

When further questioned about this by the press at the Augusto C. Sandino International Airport, Baena said: "I believe that this is a a gesture that could further contribute to the consolidation of the electoral process and national reconciliation."

The measure announced by Ortega will benefit 39 former Somozist guardsmen, who have served jail terms for more than 10 years, and 1,200 anti-Sandinist contras.

The OAS secretary general will meet in the next few hours with all opposition candidates and the Political Council of the National Opposition Union (UNO), the main opponent of Sandinism.

East European Observer Mission Arrives

PA3001165690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0158 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—A human rights center mission from Eastern Europe arrived in this capital today to observe the Nicaraguan electoral process that will conclude with the 25 February elections.

The delegation, headed by Polish human rights defender and Solidarity member, Zgigmien Romazowski, met today with Commander Bayardo Arce, head of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) political campaign.

The mission, comprised of Poles, Romanians, and Hungarians, will remain in Managua until Sunday, 28 January, and will meet with opposition leaders to learn about the electoral process and the current situation in Nicaragua.

The East European delegation's trip is financed by the U.S. center "Freedom House", because "the Poles, like the Nicaraguans, are going through a very bad economic situation," said the head of the eight- member mission.

During the interview with the East European delegation, Arce indicated that "Freedom House" is a U.S. organization that helped the "contras" in their war against the Sandinist revolution.

Besides, the Sandinist leader said that "Freedom House" appointed a Nicaraguan, Antonio Ibarra, who is a representative of the rebels in Eastern Europe, as member of an observers mission to the electoral process. However, "instead of being impartial, he came to work for the opposition and set up shop at the newspaper LA PRENSA." Ibarra was expelled from Nicaragua 3 months ago by the Sandinist authorites, which considered that the work of the U.S. organization's representative did not advocate the observation process for the 25 February elections.

Commentary Warns Sandinists Against 'Tricks'

PA3101043790 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] After listening to last weekend's news and reading the newspapers—particularly the progovernment newspapers—we reached the conclusion we are living in a world created by Walt Disney where the strangest things happen. However, the fantasy of the House of Dolls is nothing compared to what is being printed. As is publicly known, the Sandinists are determined to prevent the UNO [National Opposition Unity] from openly demonstrating.

There is an ongoing effort to destroy the ever-popular UNO. The attempts range from exerting pressure so that council members and those aspiring to become deputies will resign, to making physical threats, and even mounting a discrediting campaign with the most outrageous stories.

For example, there is a campaign to make people believe that the UNO people are staining the registration cards of the future voters. This idea arose to counter public charges by the opposition, to the effect that progovernment activists were confiscating those cards from the citizens who do not support the Sandinists. The violence staged by the mobs who infiltrate the peaceful rallies of the opposition is blamed on those who want a change. To top it all, there is an effort now to convince the people

that the UNO will withdraw from the elections, which the UNO leaders have denied.

The latest story is about an alleged ambush that armed individuals were preparing against the candidate of continuity. These are empty, childish arguments that show the regime is desperate because the opposition is gaining more strength and popularity every day. All sorts of tactics have been used in an effort to disrupt the unity that scares the current leaders because they realize they will be defeated, athough they will not publicly admit this.

While all of this happens in our country, various world political parties met in Europe on 14-16 January under the sponsorship of the International Democratic Unity in Vienna, Austria to analyze freedom and democracy throughout the world. It was agreed to appoint a delegation to observe the 25 February elections in Nicaragua. Great Britain, France, Austria, the United States, Norway, Spain, Jamaica, Colombia, and Japan will send their delegates, who will be coordinated by Jorge Serrano Elias, a former Guatemalan presidential candidate.

As one can see, all sorts of tricks can be tried here in this country, but this will not convince the world outside, that important world that is closely following events in our country, particularly now when there is an international pro-democracy movement. We say this is important because the recognition of other countries is vital for the future and progress of any country. The International Democratic Unity groups together the strongest developed countries. So be careful, and do not think you have it made.

FSLN Said Pressuring Public Employees

PA3101042590 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] The pressure being exerted on public employees by those in charge of the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] Agitation and Propaganda Department increases each day, and those refusing to attend FSLN rallies featuring Daniel Ortega in fact consider themselves fired from the institutions where they work.

The official media have given broad coverage to a poll that the National Opposition Union [UNO] is conducting, but they have said nothing about the ones they are themselves conducting at various state institutions.

Employees at several state institutions, including those of the national financial system, were recently asked whether they supported the FSLN, UNO, or are undecided.

Several regional heads said that the undecided can be "rescued," but that in the case of UNO sympathizers other measures will have to be adopted. Official media attacks on UNO are understandable at this juncture, because a majority of people within the state's infrastructure itself wants to change the situation on 25 February.

We must point out that regional heads sent memoranda to force employees to attend FSLN rallies during the most recent visits Daniel Ortega made to several Matagalpa Department municipalities.

The height of absurdity is the fact that members of the Indian community were tricked into attending a rally, which was promoted by Sandinist political leaders in San Dionisio Muncipality, Matagalpa Department, to make the crowd appear larger.

The trucks being used to transport people to the rally were forced to return empty, because most peasants refused to attend candidate Ortega's rallies. Instead these trucks had to transport people from Jinotega Department to Matiguas Municipality.

After his tour, Daniel Ortega was honored by a U.S. citizen who has been meddling in our internal affairs for the past few days and even occupied the post left vacant at the coffee commission by Mr. Jaime Cuadra.

However, the official media only make scandals out of the presence of U.S. citizens at UNO activities.

Newspaper Protests CSE Reprimand

PA3001172490 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Jan 90 pp 1, 16, 17

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] has notified us of a public reprimand, after having upheld an unjust, illegal, and stupid resolution issued by a so-called media director that the CSE claims to have appointed. END [EL NUEVO DIARIO] was first warned and threatened with a sanction before the CSE even had jurisdiction over the media law. Opinions were even expressed by certain magistrates, who later ruled against our newspaper.

The problem was that END had applied the term GN-1 [National Guard-UNO] to the alliance between the remains of the Somozist Guard and the so-called National Opposition Union [UNO].

The CSE was ignoring the embraces in Guatemala between UNO and Colonel Enrique Bermudez, the Somozist colonel's declaration of membership in UNO, and the existance of a list of UNO candidates that included not only former guardsmen, but also people who have publicly declared that they are guardsmen and will continue to be guardsmen.

At this late date, the CSE has also attempted to ignore that, in the name of the UNO-Somozist Guard Alliance, peasants were being killed in Nicaragua's mountains and public campaigning was being carried out.

The private reprimands were followed by a public reprimand, signed by a Mr. Beteta, whose appointment as media director never appeared in the Official Gazette or in any announcement in the media. That gentleman applied to us the Electoral Ethics Regulation, the penalties of which are based on the Electoral Law and are within the exclusive purview of the Attorney General's Office; but he applied sanctions provided under the

Media Law. This is as if a person was tried under the Penal Code and sanctioned according to police regulations. Moreover, the electoral regulations cited as having been violated have nothing to do with the communications media; those violations can be committed only by political parties or private citizens.

Despite all the foregoing, in response to an END appeal, the CSE decided to uphold the actions of its phantom director without referring to the law upon which the arguments presented by END are based, and prescribed for us a number of ethical recommendations that it has never applied to the Somozist media, which insult, offend, and smear the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and other parties that are not part of the electoral alliance formed by Mr. Bush.

END does not produce electoral advertising, it is just a channel for it. In none of these advertisements have we expressed our own criteria, either deforming or distorting the advertisement. As for our opinions as a media, reflected in columns and headlines, we have the constitutional right to describe anyone in the manner we consider appropriate in line with our political assessment. Therefore, to END, the UNO-National Guard alliance exists and is being maintained. There is abundant proof of this, and we will continue to call it by that name.

The undersigned CSE secretary hereby notifies you, engineer Xavier Chamorro Cardenal, of the following resolution, which I am leaving in the hands of Frank Cortes. It states literally:

CSE, Managua, 20 January 1990, at 1400.

Whereas;

The CSE Directorate of Media and Social Communications in a resolution dated 28 December 1989 has decided to sanction END with a public reprimand and the requirement that the ruling be published, for having published articles and headlines using the term GN-1 to the detriment of the UNO alliance. Notified of the resolution, the paper's director engineer Xavier Chamorro appealed for a review by this council, who ordered that he be heard within the legal period of time.

The appellant asked for the aforementioned ruling to be revoked on the previous premises:

a. That the appointment of Dr Adolfo Beteta as media director had not been published.

b. That the resolution under appeal does not contain a formal sentence and is vague.

c. At the same time, Chamorro alleges that the articles applied in the resolution under appeal do not refer to any act by his paper that has damaged, deformed, or altered any electoral propaganda; that his paper is not participating in any electoral campaign, but only publishes propaganda of political parties under contracts signed either directly or through advertising agencies; and that he feels that the provisions of the General Media and Social Communication Law are being improperly applied to his detriment, as is the Electoral Ethics Regulation, with the exception of Article 3 of that latter document.

d. That the CSE has no "jurisdiction" in the application of the Media Law.

e. That the ruling under appeal violates freedom of expression and dissemination of thought that are guaranteed by the Constitution.

Whereas;

The CSE Media Directorate involvement in this case is based on Articles 50, 51, and 52 of the General Law on News Media approved by the National Assembly and published in Gazette No. 203 of 26 October 1989, and the content of its ruling is based on violations of the Electoral Law and its regulations that affect the normal development of the current electoral process, thus, the appeal by the appellant on the matter is out of line.

The resolution under appeal contains a record of the incidents that prompted the sanction, as well as a study of the reasons why these incidents are considered to be in violation of the legal norms the Media Directorate must enforce. This resolution is specific with regard to the sanction imposed and the law on which it is based. In addition, there are no legal formalities for the kind of ruling that is now appealed. The same is applied to the alleged failure to publicly announce the appointment of the director, since the CSE president made the announcement and END carried the report in its issue No. 3372 on Tuesday, 29 December 1989.

In several END publications, detailed in the ruling under appeal, the terms GN-1 and GN-UNO were used to identify one of the participants in the current elections process with the Somoza regime's National Guard, to his detriment and in open violation of the Media Law, the Electoral Law, and the Rules on Electoral Ethics. Therefore, the legal norms applied in the ruling under appeal were properly applied. It is also worth noting that according to Article 1 of the Media Law, newspapers and other "news media must play an active role in the education and development of society and the Nicaraguan person," and also "must primarily and efficiently contribute, through objective, broad, and responsible coverage, toward strengthening peace" and "promoting human rights" (Article 6 of aforementioned law), and the work they do must "serve to promote respect for people's dignity." In our judgment, END has not fulfilled or complied with these duties and obligations, because it uses inappropriate terms against one of the candidates in the upcoming elections.

Moreover, the CSE notes that Article 1 of the Electoral Ethics Regulations states that reporters and news media directors are obligated "to contribute toward making the current electoral campaign basically educational and enlightening of Nicaraguans civic values," as their actions during the electoral campaign must fall within

the framework of the loftiest ethical and moral standards, where there must prevail respect for the right to a good name and other human rights that deal with a person's honor and reputation (Article 2 of aforementioned regulations). Violating this obligation is deemed an act contrary to electoral ethics and liable to sanctions. Now, based on Article 50 of the Media Law, the CSE is empowered to become involved "in matters that concern the Electoral Law and and electoral rules applicable during the electoral process that will culminate with the 25 February 1990 elections." END's attention had been drawn on the publicity, reports, and headlines it used, distorting UNO propaganda, and containing epithets and words that created confusion or denigrated that group and its candidates, something that violates Articles 3 and 8, and paragraph c of the Electoral Ethics Regulations. However, it failed to heed calls by our general secretariat, and it continued those publications more or less along the same lines, and this prompted the resolution that is under appeal.

Through its actions, the CSE has tried to lead this election campaign through channels of respectful and open discussions. Only in that manner will Nicaraguans succeed in overcoming the limitations of political culture that we are currently experiencing. However, we have confirmed that some media have been using insulting adjectives to accuse people, groups, and authorities of various crimes. The attitude adopted by those media could never be described as responsible journalism, and their actions promote revenge, which could cause violence, which hinders the normal and ordered development of the election process. Thus, the CSE can and must demand of those who, because of their occupation, means, and participation in the election process, are more influential groups.

Thus, it is our duty to apply the norms established by the media and social communication law, the electoral law, and the Code of Electoral Ethics after due examination of each case so that the application of the regulations serves as guidance for all those who directly or indirectly participate in the election process. The list of regulations is included in Article 10 of the Code of Electoral Ethics.

Both publishers and reporters have a very important duty toward the Nicaraguan people during the current election process—they must help this election campaign be an eminently educational experience in which the civic values of Nicaraguans are strengthened. That can only be accomplished by conducting objective and honest journalism and by avoiding slander, insults, and satirical criticism. The CSE has based all its regulations on the need to respect the Nicaraguan people's rights, ideas, dignity, reputation, and all other human rights that protect the honor and reputation of the people. It is the duty of the leaders and candidates of the various political parties, alliances, and associations to do the same. By no means are we trying to limit freedom of expression. We only want the media to handle all matters linked to the election process with civility and without affecting the rights guaranteed by our Constitution.

We do not want the Code of Electoral Ethics to encroach upon citizens' rights to prevent them from criticizing the various political parties participating in the election process. We are simply trying to give equal opportunities to all those participating in the election process and to promote the use of civil language so that there is not doubt that the election process has been respectful and clean in all its areas.

Thus;

Using its powers, and based on Article 10, Paragraphs 4 and 6 of the electoral law; on Articles 1, 6, 15, and 24, Paragraphs 1, 7, 35, 5, 36, 37, 2, 40, 45, 50, 51, and 52 of the general media and social communications law; on Article 10 of the electoral law; and on Articles 1 and 2, Paragraphs 3, 4, and 8, and on section C of the Code of Electoral Ethics, the CSE, resolves;

1. To reject the petition requesting the revocation or annulment of the resolution sent to Xavier Chamorro Cardenal, the newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO chief editor, by the CSE Media and Social Communications Directorate on 28 December 1989.

2. Consequently, the CSE confirms the public reprimand of EL NUEVO DIARIO for violating the media law and the Code of Electoral Ethics. The reprimand states that EL NUEVO DIARIO must refrain from using terms such as GN-UNO when referring to the National Opposition Union.

3. Based on Article 45 of the media and social communication general law, EL NUEVO DIARIO is ordered to publish the resolution issued by the CSE Media and Social Communications Directorate issued on 28 December 1989 and the current ruling in the way specified by the CSE Media and Social Communications Directorate within the 48 hours following receipt of the current ruling, subject to the application of the law if it does not do so.

Be it notified.

Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren, president; Rodolfo Sandino Arguello, vice president; Guillermo Selva Arguello, magistrate; Leonel Arguello Ramirez, magistrate; Aman Sandino Munoz, magistrate; Rosa Marina Zelaya Velasquez, secretary.

Managua, 1846, Monday, 22 January 1990

Panama

Vice President Ford Comments on U.S. Aid

PA3101145890 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1244 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Panamanian Vice President Guillermo Ford said during an interview with RPC that the visit by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle to Panama has substantially

cleared the doubts some sectors had about the existence of U.S. aid for Panama. In explaining the economic aid to Panama, Mr. Ford said: "There are two kinds of packages, as we call this aid. One is a package that can be released immediately based on an executive order from the President of the United States—a $500 million package to support private enterprise, national development, and infrastructural work. The second package will be presented for approval to the U.S. Congress. This afternoon I will meet with the ambassador of the United States and the new director of the Agency for International Development [AID] to immediately implement the short-term projects that have been authorized."

Concerning the possibility of eliminating bank restrictions, Mr. Ford said: "I can tell you with much satisfaction that large banks are very much inclined to support smaller banks. I hope that soon, I cannot say exactly when because this has to be worked out, the deposits will be unfrozen. This is definitely one of our highest priorities."

Regarding the Patria Bank installed by the dismantled Panama Defense Force, Mr. Ford said: "The Patria Bank has been intervened with and will be liquidated. Depositors will be protected, as the law establishes, so no one will lose. Unfortunately, this institution was used by the dictatorship for purposes completely different from those for which it was created."

Concerning investigations related to so-called bank secrecy, Mr. Ford said: "An effort has been made to give to the word secret a meaning different from what that word really means. Many people think that the word secret means to hide something. Panamanian laws allow courts of justice and the state attorney, specifically, to investigate all bank accounts, whether coded, private, corporate, or personal accounts. We have voluntarily initiated a campaign to eliminate money laundering and drug trafficking in Panama, and we are using mechanisms that the law permits. We believe that we must not destroy the banking center, but we are not going to permit money laundering and the utilization of Panama as a center for criminal activities."

Concerning massive dismissals in the official sector, Vice President Ford said: "I have been flatly opposed to massive dismissals in ministries and autonomous institutions. The president has ordered the ministers and the directors of autonomous institutions to eliminate from the institutions the following: 1) All militant paramilitary elements who endangered the lives and security of Panamanians; 2) Militant members of the Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity [CODEPADI], but not those who were forced into membership to protect their jobs.

"This is no witch hunt. This is being done to bring the stability and security that the Panamanian people need. I do not agree with massive dismissals. My office has only dismissed seven persons. This week I am going to dismiss the paramilitary and the CODEPADI's. I have already informed them of this. I think it would be a mistake to kick out honest officials to replace them with other honest officials. We must recall that a large percentage of public employees, as soon as they entered the voting booths and found themselves alone with God and their consciences, voted for the opposition. For this reason we have to be very clear-minded when dismissing public employees. They are not owned by any political party. They just have to work for the Panamanian state."

Ministry on Safe-Conduct for 15 in Embassies

PA3101005690 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 0003 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry released a communique today announcing that a special commission appointed to consider the issue of persons in asylum has decided to recommend safe-conducts be issued to the following persons:

Narcisa Castillero and Ulises Rodriguez, who are at the Peruvian Embassy; Carlos Wong and Jorge Isaac Chandeck, who are at the Bolivian Embassy; Juan de Dios Valenzuela and Aurelio Ivan Nieto, who who are both Chilean citizens; (Nora Buena Palma), who is at the Ecuadoran Embassy; and Carlos Nunez, Clodomiro Berna, Ricaurte Arosemena, Jose Rodriguez, and Reynaldo Rivera, a former Panamanian ambassador to Cuba, as well as minors Reynaldo Rodriguez Montecinos and Reinier Rodriguez Montecinos and the Cuban national Digna Montecinos, all of whom are at the Cuban Embassy.

The Foreign Ministry communique adds that the abovementioned are not involved in crimes against the state or against human rights, but that if any charges are raised against them in the future their extradition will be requested according to international law.

Anti-Endara Government Protests Increasing

PA3001233190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2115 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 30 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Demonstrations, protests, and demands from the Panamanian Government headed by Guillermo Endara have increased in the past few days as a result of the dismissal of hundreds of public servants and military members of the previous regime.

Endara ordered his ministers not to carry out mass firings, but Hector Aleman, secretary of the National Federation of Public Servants (FENASEP), has reported more than 2,000 "unjustified" dismissals among the 120,000 public servants since the new government was installed after the 20 December U.S. invasion.

More than 100 people, including former officials and members of the dismantled Panama Defense Forces [FDP] of former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, demonstrated today before the Palace of the Herons (Presidency) to demand reinstatement to their jobs.

The military members who participated in the demonstration, which was made up of more than 40 who were discharged by the current government, announced that they will begin a hunger strike by the door of the Palace of the Herons if they are not incorporated into the new Public Force.

"We have not stolen, murdered, or participated in drug trafficking, and that is why we expect justice to be served," the retired men said.

Representatives of about 140 security agents of the state-owned ports, who are asking the government for a change in their work status, also marched in front of the Palace of the Herons today.

The ports' security agents became members of the military when they were incorporated into the FDP in 1984. They are now asking Endara to make them civilian policemen again.

Employees of the state-owned Air Panama, which was closed and is under investigation over alleged administrative irregularities committed by those who managed it in the past few years, also demonstrated at the Presidency this morning.

Air Panama employees want the airline privatized to be able to work again once it resumes operations.

Meanwhile, today a group of dismissed officials, via FENSASEP, filed an unconstitutionality suit at the Supreme Court against the Public Administration Law that was adopted by the Endara administration in late December.

According to FENASEP's secretary general, the new administrative legislation is "unconstitutional" and has been used to fire more than 2,000 public servants, in addition to firing municipal employees and discharging military members.

Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning and economic policy minister, told the press today that he opposes mass firings, but added that there is a need to "eliminate the paramilitary members" who were on the state's payroll and "jeopardized the life and safety of Panamanians."

Ford was referring to those who had joined the so-called "Dignity Battalions" and the "Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity."

In mid-January FENASEP organized the first demonstration at the Presidency to demand a case-by-case review of all dismissals ordered by the new authorities. A commission was charged with studying the dismissals, but the results are not yet known.

Former officials and FENASEP leaders said today that the Endara administration is not only carrying out mass firings, but has also "destroyed" the stability of the public servants.

The FENASEP secretary general, who is a member of the main party that supported Noriega, the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), claimed that the government has "fired thousands of public servants without any justification or for reasons specified by law."

For example, Aleman pointed out, officials have been fired "for failing to comply with their duties when they are not even allowed to enter their workplaces."

He added that there are employees who have been fired over the telephone "without receiving any explanations or salaries owed them." Moreover, he said, even pregnant women have been fired although they "are entitled to pregnancy benefits."

PRD Withdraws From Vote Evaluation Commission

PA3101030690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0150 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 30 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the main Panamanian opposition party, today announced its withdrawal from the commission in charge of evaluating the results of the May 1989 legislative elections because of alleged irregularities in the comparison of vote tally sheets.

According to the PRD, which supported the regime of demoted General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the representatives of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) currently in power have prevented the comparison of the PRD's figures with the figures in the vote tally sheets gathered by the opposition after the elections, which were later annulled.

Delegates from the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA), the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and the Authentic Liberal Party, which compose the ADOC, and the Labor Party (PALA) and the PRD—now in the opposition—are participating in this commission appointed by a decree issued by the Electoral Tribunal of Panama.

In a communique, the PRD termed the commission "illegal, because it is not based on any provision of the Electoral Code." The legal action "would be to request all District Boards to verify the counting of votes registered in the available vote tally sheets."

However, the PRD said it had agreed to participate in the commission that is evaluating and auditing the election results for legislators because it wanted to help in the efforts to normalize the country and to defend "our candidates who legally won" the elections, whose results for president were revalidated after the U.S. invasion on 20 December.

According to the PRD, during the recounting of votes being carried out with vote tally sheets in the hands of the ADOC—because the vote tally sheets in the hands of the PRD were destroyed during the invasion—"we were not given the corresponding information for districts very important for us." In addition, the PRD states, the ADOC

has tried to proclaim as winners legislators from the ruling coalition in sectors where "we demand the victory."

"To verify the results, we asked to be allowed to examine the vote tally sheets in the hands of the Electoral Tribunal which were provided exclusively by the ADOC," the PRD communique states. The communique adds that the commission is attempting to proclaim the winners not based on those vote tally sheets, but rather based on figures provided by auditors from the current government parties.

"In view of this intolerant position, which is totally removed from our will to respect the victory of those who won the legislative posts, the PRD has decided to withdraw from the commission," the main opposition party stated.

Comptroller General Issues Report on Economy

PA3001194290 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA
in Spanish 22 Jan 90 pp 1, 10A

[Text] Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles has issued a long, revealing document on the country's economy and finances.

According to the document:

Every Panamanian owes $2,350, "not including interest," to pay the government's debt;

In 21 years the central government's debt has increased 20-fold;

The Republic of Panama owes $2,374 million in overdue payments to its international creditors. This amount includes $728 million in interest;

The Social Security Institute is facing a deficit that might reach $120 million this year;

By the end of 1989 the National Bank had issued a $927 million overdraft. This overdraft was partly financed with $605 million deposited by government agencies, among which was $51.5 million belonging to the Social Security Institute. This capital belonged to the taxpayers and not to the government, which "cannot and should not use these funds to finance the central government's overdraft."

Carles reports on various aspects of the government's financial situation, the national budget, delays in paying the debt, the government deficit, the critical conditions of government finances, and the need to restructure the national debt. It lists some of the irregularities that have taken place in goverment over the past 21 years.

According to Carles, "All Panamanians should be aware of the government's financial condition. We intend to present periodic reports on the fiscal situation so that the people can be aware of the nature of the problem and the measures we plan to adopt." He added that, "all our actions will be made public."

Carles pointed out that the present government "of reconstruction and reconciliation" has plans designed to solve the difficult financial situation and face the problem of the debt. He warned, however, that it will not be an easy task, because it depends on many factors. He said that the comptroller's office is working with a budget to cover the next 90 days. It will be followed by a budget for the rest of the year. He stressed, however, that all Panamanians must cooperate to "gradually overcome the crisis," solve the debt problem, and return to the path of economic growth.

Comptroller Carles' extensive document reveals dramatic facts about the nation's finances. It reveals practices that have helped to worsen the country's economy.

He said it was a "disaster" that over the past 3 years there was no national budget and, therefore, no policy on income and expenses.

He explained that "as musicians would say, the economic policy was being played by ear, and those who were playing it were out of tune. They played one rhythm one day and another the day after, and the one who had more pull took the lion's share."

He cited, among others, the following irregular practices: some income was not reported, some expenses were unjustified, and checks were made out "to civilian and military male and female friends."

He also criticized the existence of some accounts without any corresponding balance, and the fact that presidents could spend "several million dollars without having to explain."

He said that taxes collected went from the taxpayers' pockets to the pay the expenses of "those in power." During international boom times "foreign funds arriving in the country in the form of loans were used in projects with inflated costs that were never completed, or in million-dollar credits to male and female friends of the officials in power. These loans were never repaid."

The revealing report from the Comptroller General's Office given to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA described as "monstruous" the number of overdue commitments that cannot be paid under the current budget.

During 1989, the public sector's overall total income was $1.075 billion. If this sum was slated to pay the overdue foreign debt, it would only cover one-third of the debt and there would be no funds for the state payroll and other expenses.

"We would be paying that debt alone for over 3 years, and no funds would be left to cover other needs such as health, education, and roads," Carles stressed.

Overdue payments to international creditors total $2.374 billion, including $738 million. [sentence as published]. In addition, approximately $695 million will be payable in 1990 in principal and interest.

According to Carles, the public sector incurred a deficit of $438 million in 1989, which was financed by not paying the service on the domestic and foreign debt, and enlarging the debt "with local suppliers and public employees by delaying payment of commitments."

Had political conditions not changed in 1990, there would have been a new deficit of $378 million.

"It would not have been surprising if the government had agreed with international organizations not to pay 1 month of salaries of government employees during 1990 to offset other excessive government expenses," Carles said.

The Comptroller General is currently trying to balance the budget. In analyzing the precarious situation of public funds, he said that this resulted from "disorder and irresponsibility."

He pointed out dramatic problems:

a) To balance the budget, the central government must reduce its expenses this year by approximately $160 million (17 percent of last year's budget). Carles stressed that the government "will have no savings if it pays all interest and maintains the current level of expenses."

b) The Social Security Fund's deficit could surpass $120 million this year.

c) Panama must update its payments to international financial institutions, to whom it owes $532 million in overdue payments plus $128 million to be paid in 1990. A reactivation of key investment projects in the areas of energy, water, and agriculture will depend on the country's compliance with those financial commitments.

Carles criticized the fact that the National Bank of Panama used nongovernmental funds to finance the central government and that those amounts were not registered as part of the government's domestic debt. He stressed that this pracice was stopped by the current National Bank general manager, who "has firmly expressed his determination to restore confidence in that institution through sensible management."

The comptroller general emphatically said that even if the government does not pay its debts, it will not be able to cover its expenses, noting that "there are not enough funds to continue operating responsibly."

He added that the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy must determine how the scant government funds will be assigned to cover the multiple needs the government now faces. He stresed that "the public sector's real deficit must be reduced to levels that can be financed with foreign resources, which must be invested in a modest, but efficient investment plan.

The comptroller's office points out that when President Endara's administration began, the public sector's basic debt was $5.319 billion, including an interinstitutional debt of $351 million.

When this debt was subdivided, we found that $3.811 billion constituted debts to foreign creditors, including international financial institutions and foreign commercial banks, but did not "include expired interest."

The domestic debt, which includes debts with local creditors, individuals, social security, local private businesses, and the National Bank of Panama for a total of $1.157 billion, "did not include expired interest."

The comptroller said that the floating debt for the year and previous periods was $91.7 million by November 1989.

Putting figures together and going back to previous dates, Comptroller Ruben Dario Carles said that the Panamanian central government's total debt was $146.1 million on 31 December 1968. This means that during the period of the dictatorship, the central government's debt increased more than 20 times."

Carles said that it is true that since September 1987, "long before the U.S. sanctions," international organizations and banks had suspended their lines of credit to the national government because of its failure to fulfill its contractual commitments.

The country's credit image has been affected, and the flow of foreign resources for the development of new investment projects has been cut.

Dramatizing the country's economic problem, the comptroller said that "public finances are strangled."

Carles feels that if the government gets itself up to date in 1990 with those institutions that cannot waive or restructure its debt, it would have to "use all of the funds frozen in the United States and an even larger additional amount, and even then we will not have filled a single pothole in the streets or built a new classroom."

Despite the dark view the comptroller offers, he suggests a few corrective measures such as "fiscal discipline," public spending adjustments, and increased administrative efficiency.

"This will be done in a global, analytical manner and in total harmony with the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry. Our decisions will be influenced solely by our employees' professionalism," he explained.

"The health of public finances should be of concern to all Panamanians," the comptroller said.

Insisting on the need and importance of a budget, the ranking official said that it is necessary to design a plan that will include all of the public sector's expenses and income, and to state how much will be paid in taxes; who will pay them; how many government employees there will be and in which sectors; how much will be invested in highways, schools, an so on; how much debt will be accrued; and how much debt will be paid and by whom.

"The national budget is the government's system of signals to the people, it is every employee's action

manual...the comptroller's office watches out and ensures that it is fulfilled. The comptroller's office is not an executor, it is a servant faithful to that approved by the executive and legislative branches," Carles said.

Government Appoints Canal Commission Board

PA3101025090 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The Panamanian executive branch today appointed the Panamanian members of the Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors. They are: Joaquin Jose Vallarino, Dr. Cecilia Alegre, Alfredo Ramirez, and Luis Anderson.

The commission will begin a 2-day meeting in Panama on 31 January.

Crime, Public Force Activities Explored

PA3101040590 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] An unusual increase in the number of robberies and killings attributed to paramilitary groups that were armed by the previous regime have taken their toll on Panamanian and U.S. citizens and have shaken the city in recent weeks. The community is clamoring for protection while U.S. Southern Command sources have reported that special troops have begun a special operation in the countryside to dismantle the bands of Dignity Battalions and former Panama Defense Forces members who are still putting up resistance.

Changes were noted today in the capital's security operations, but basically the Public Force is still not prepared to handle the situation. The U.S. Army's presence in the capital is more noticeable today, as a backup for the Public force, in light of the need to counter the wave of robberies, attacks, and crimes.

An operation was carried out today in Parque Lefevre and Rio Abajo—known as Area D in police terminology—to search for weapons and Dignity Battalion members. U.S. soldiers and Public Force members in full combat gear were seen patrolling the area. An even more systematic operation is being carried out in San Miguelito, which has become a dangerous area since the U.S. intervention occurred. There are no civilian authorities in this zone, as in many others, and robberies and attacks are a daily occurrence.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified woman] I believe that the protection measures should be increased. If the gringos do not stay in Panama, the others will kill us.

[Unidentified man] Anyone is liable to be attacked at any time. That is my opinion. I think the government is doing what it can, but much more should be done.

[Second unidentified woman] I wish the president would crack down more on the robbers, because we cannot go on like this. [end recording]

Major David Arrue, who is in charge of the San Miguelito Zone, said that protection measures will be increased in this conflict - ridden area.

[Begin Arrue recording] We will carry out an operation with roadblocks. The roadblocks will be increased on a 24-hour basis and the forces we mentioned before will work arduously. The operation's goal is to locate weapons, escaped criminals, and other types of criminals in San Miguelito.

There is another operation that we have coordinated with the businessmen. You know that there are many companies that have trucks and distribute goods throughout San Miguelito. We have coordinated things with them to establish a series of critical points—where many these trucks have been robbed—and our units will use privately owned vehicles that the businessmen will provide. We will also try to send a Public Force member in every truck that enters San Miguelito to distribute goods. [end recording]

The security measures were evident in Area B, which includes Betania, Villa Caceres, El Ingenio, La Loceria, and Pueblo Nuevo, for the citizens' benefit. The Public Force covers the capital with approximately 4,000 members, and it has only 35 vehicles. This is evidently not enough for a city with a population of 1 million and where the crime levels have increased dramatically.

The Public Force members are armed with revolvers and shotguns, but they have practically no mobile units, so they have no choice but to seek the U.S. Army's support.

[Begin recording] [Third unidentified woman] We are all in danger of being robbed. We walk around afraid. The people say that the buses are being attacked.

[Second unidentified man] This should not be so. This is very bad. There is anxiety, and we cannot live in peace. [end recording]

Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice president of the Republic and government and justice minister, still defends the reasoning that went into forming the vigilance committees.

[Begin Arias recording] Groups should be organized in every neighborhood to defend the population from the criminals. [end recording]

How can the people face bands of well-armed criminals? This is impossible, and the civil defense groups can only operate as informers since it would be a mistake to arm them. It would be tantamount to creating new battalions that, given the circumstances, would take justice into their own hands.

The Public Force is now implementing new strategies as a result of the citizens' demand for more and better protection. The Public Force will soon have to be strengthened and provided with the necessary material and equipment so that it can operate. We simply cannot live under the U.S. Army's umbrella forever. There are

good military officers and soldiers willing to carry out their mission, but there is nothing to work with. Money is needed. For example, yesterday we heard reports that there was no gasoline for their mobile units. Protecting the people is more valuable than millions of dollars.

Security measures were stepped up today in Panama City with the U.S. Army's support. The new Public Force is taking its first steps along a democratic path. We have learned that they are willing to work, but there is hardly any equipment to work with. The country's current leaders should pay more attention to security matters because we can hardly talk about democracy when the security of our citizens cannot be guaranteed.

Media Report on Crime Rate, Government Measures

PA3101131390

[Editorial Report] The following is a representative sampling of various reports and editorials from Panamanian media concerning the crime wave that has been affecting the country in recent weeks.

Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 26 January carries a report on holdups and robberies perpetrated against business establishments and individuals "that have resulted in major losses, injuries, and even deaths." The report adds that "terrified with these incidents, which are contrary to development of a new democratic era in our country, the community is wondering what is wrong with the new Public Force that, in broad daylight, heavily armed individuals boldly carry out attacks and robberies, taking advantage of an incipient Public Force that lacks the necessary equipment and weapons to repel or minimize this crime wave that has alarmed the citizens." In that regard, Metropolitan Police Chief Lt. Col. Armando Palacios Gondola has said: "We are aware of the incidents that have occurred at various places, and we are working simultaneously in all the areas of the capital."

Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish on 26 January on page 1-A carries a 350-word report saying that the Chamber of Commerce "has requested greater police protection in view of the wave of thefts and lack of security that is keeping businessmen from reopening their stores." The report added: "Following the U.S. invasion, people from all social levels participated in the looting of stores, which resulted in 'heavy losses' estimated at over $1 billion." Chamber of Commerce President Alfredo Maduro noted that "the promised economic aid is urgently needed to prevent a social explosion."

Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish on 27 January on page 2-A carries a 250-word report on complaints received from residents in the Curundu neighborhood—a reverted area in the former Canal zone—where burglaries have occurred on a daily basis during the afternoon hours.

Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish on 27 January on page 7 carries a 150-word report on growing concern in the province of Chiriqui "due to the presence of paramilitary groups with high-caliber weapons" who have been assaulting homes in the Cabuya Sector. The report also stated that armed men have been seen near the mountain range, Boqueron, Punta Burica, and in eastern Chiriqui. "It is believed that more than 100 highly dangerous prisoners who escaped from jail during the invasion are still at large in that province," the report added.

Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 29 January on page 4-A publishes a 400-word editorial, entitled: "The Increase in the Wave of Crime, Thefts, and Holdups." It complains of the increased number of "crimes, robberies, and assaults sweeping the nation, particularly the terminal cities of Panama and Colon." It stressed: "Never before in our history has the country experienced so many of these cases." It adds that "oganized bands of thieves and criminals are acting with impunity," holding up banks, stores, and attacking citizens on the streets and even in their own homes, while the new authorities do not seem to be able to stop this social anarchy. The editorial concludes by demanding strong action by the new government and the Public Force to stop the crime wave.

Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 30 January carries a 5-minute report on a news conference held on 29 January by Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice president and government and justice minister to announce measures to control the wave of thefts and holdups throughout the country, particularly in the metropolitan area. Lt. Col. Armando Palacios Gondola, Metropolitan Police director explained the plan, which will be implemented on 31 January, in detail. It is to include intensifying patrols and searches to detect armed criminals.

The same source carries a 1-minute report during the same newscast which noted that "the January crime rate in Panama City has doubled that of the previous year." It added: "According to the police, many criminals are carrying AK-47 rifles distributed during the U.S. invasion by paramilitary groups subordinated to deposed Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega." The report noted that "22 homicides, 49 violent assaults, 200 robberies, and 80 car thefts were reported during the first 25 days of January."

Panama City CRITICA in Spanish on 30 January on page 1 carries a 225-word report that indicates that the bus drivers who provide public transportation to the outskirts of Panama City, specifically in the San Miguelito area, have announced that they will cease to drive their routes after 1800 beginning this week in view of the frequent armed holdups they have been experiencing. They have requested more effective police protection in that community.

Large Number of Weapons Reported in San Miguelito

PA3101142090 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Jan p1

[Report by Eduardo Alvarado]

[Text] Neighbors of Cerro Cocobolo, San Miguelito District, yesterday told EL PANAMA AMERICA: "We are afraid because there is a large number of weapons in this sector."

Neighbors of this heavily populated and poor sector denounced the fact that "the number of weapons is so large that even children are carrying them."

According to the people, the weapons were given out by a former mayor and a former legislator and are currently being used by criminals to steal and kill.

Frightened neighbors, who fear for their lives, have said: "Several persons were killed on Thursday 25 January in Sector Two of Cerro Cocobolo. One was a boy named Dagoberto Diaz."

Investigations carried out by this newspaper indicate that the body is at the Santo Tomas Hospital morgue and shows bullet wounds to the chest and back.

Armed gangs clash every day in other areas of Cerro Cocobolo and Samaria, which is another sector of San Miguelito, "apparently in a territorial fight for drug distribution."

There are also reports of a crime wave at Cerro Batea, another sector of the heavily populated San Miguelito District, involving armed men who have the residents "almost in panic;" whereby they request the authorities' quick intervention.

"The gangs, are the same ones that go downtown and other places to commit their crimes with impunity," was stated by several neighbors who, given the dangerous situation, will be leaving for the countryside.

Article Examines U.S. Aid, Reconstruction Plans

PA2801170690 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Jan 90 p 4-A

[Unattributed article: "Is Panama War Booty?"]

[Text] We are dealing with a profound, transcendent subject. We are dealing with the U.S. intervention in Panama, which will be the subject of analysis, criticism, or defense by many people and organizations, each of which will interpret the event according to its judgment or interests.

Although matters related to the planning and execution of the intervention are debatable, the current democratic government, through one of its most authoritative spokesmen, has denied that the intervention was requested. The degree of corruption reached in Panama under Noriega's dictatorship and his clique is well known, and more is learned about it with every passing day. How could the Panamanian people by themselves have gotten rid of so many cruel and heartless men in power? This is the question most of our people ponder.

We will not give our blessing to the intervention. In addition, U.S. and Panamanian interests are to be taken into consideration. However, this is a painful chapter in the history of the Latin American peoples. In this intervention, many of the innocent have had paid to pay for the guilty, who have continued to play it smart. Nevertheless, justice is slow but sure.

The change that the people wanted and needed occurred. The people made this change manifest at the ballot boxes, but it was refused. The Noriega-sponsored dictators wanted to continue their mischief and paved the way for intervention, which they did not think would happen. Even if it occurred, Noriega's followers relied on a cushion of voices of countries that would protest on behalf of principles or concepts. The government, however, did not care for the people's grief and hunger. A small example will suffice. It was found that Noriega's petty cash consisted of $5 million. Nevertheless, public employees would each get only $60 during December 1989.

Today, when the time for reconstruction of democracy has arrived, many people ask: If the intervention was not a spontaneous action, to the extent that funds were allocated for it, why were the necessary funds for rebuilding Panama not included in the budget? How much aid will the United States give? Will it take the form of a gift or a loan with interest? Why has the U.S. Government delayed this aid if it knows this assistance is urgently needed? What happened to the thousands of arms and abundant war materiel, some of it sophisticated, that the U.S. Government seized from the regime? These arms are not the same ones confiscated from the Dignity Battalions or the CODEPADI [Committees for the Defense of the Homeland and Dignity] or those for which the U.S. forces paid when they were handed in.

Have the $400 million withheld in U.S. banks already been returned to Panama? Has interest on this money already been paid to Panama? On what terms will the U.S. bases continue to function in Panama? Will they be here for free, or will the United States pay for every one of them, just as the United States does in other countries? Because of the importance of these bases and, out of a sense of justice, because of the Panamanian people's needs, we can begin to be helped by being paid for these military bases. Why are we not helped to widen the Culebra Cut and broaden the Panama-Colon highway, which would create jobs now and in the future?

Economist G. Chapman has expressed some views on the amount of the aid, which are not shared by many. For once, it would be good for the College of Economists, the University of Panama, and others to contribute something to this subject, because Mr Chapman is not the only one familiar with economics in this country. In addition, there are other questions. Panama by itself cannot complete its reconstruction. We cannot accept the idea that so much sacrifice could be in vain, that Panama is war booty and not exactly for Panamanians. Two things are fundamental and pressing for Panama at present: better terms for our foreign debt and an aid package for more than $1 billion. For the United States,

this aid is a moral duty. For the European Community, this aid is a conscientious duty.

Panama, 23 January 1989.

'Fickle' Kennedy's Opinions Called 'Stupid'

PA3001154590 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 30 Jan 90 p 4

[From the "Comments on Events" column by Luis Raul Fernandez: "Contradictory Positions"]

[Text] The very fickle U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, who only a few months ago raised his voice in the U.S. Senate in support of economic sanctions against the regime of former General Noriega and who also made very vehement statements to justify the "intervention" by the Yankee government in Panama, now comes up with the absurdity of harshly criticizing President Bush for having ordered the "invasion" of 20 December. He is self-contradictory, cowardly, and has no definite ideology, because at times he acts like a liberal and other times like a fanatical conservative. He has praised the courage and intelligence of the troops that intervened in Panama, but also says that Noriega posed no threat to the canal or to the lives of U.S. citizens, despite the murder of an American officer. These opinions are "stupid," because that is the proper term for the statements made by that infamous "irresponsible" one, who caused the death of one of his secretaries some years ago. His words move one to hilarity and contempt.

Radio Calls for PPA Party Recovery

PA3001235990

[Editorial Report] Panama City Radio Cadena Millonaria in Spanish at 1430 GMT on 30 January is intercepted in progress broadcasting a program called "Let Us Recover the Little Snakes (reference to snake-shaped symbols on the logo of the Authentic Panamenist Party, PPA)," which the announcer says is aired from 1400-1500 GMT.

The announcer says that "this is not just another program to promote division, but a program to unite the PPA people." He adds: "It has been said in many places that Guillermo Endara does not have a party or any support. It is true that he does not have a legal party backing him, but he does have a de facto party that supports him and that led him to the Presidency. It was us, the Panamenists, the authentic Arnulfists who were deprived of our party during the tyranny, who led him to the Presidency. It was the votes of the Panamenists who led Guillermo Endara Galimany to the Presidency. For this reason, we do not want to hear anymore that Guillermo Endara Galimany has no support. He does. He has the most important backing a government could have: The people support him and will defend him just as he will defend the interests of the people to whom he is obligated: the Authentic Panamenist masses."

The announcer continues: "We urge all the Panamenists listening to us to pray for our president so that he may remain in power, so that there is no division in the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, because if there is division, those who live by the maxim divide and conquer will be victorious. Let us deliver communiques to the Presidency. Let us provide moral support. Let us state our support in writing. Let us send telegrams supporting President Guillermo Endara Galimany.

"Let us also tell our president, a prominent member of our PPA, that we want to recover the little snakes. We do not want a new party or a new banner. We want the party that has always belonged to us and that was stolen from us by the Noriega tyranny: the PPA, the party of the little snakes."

The announcer then admits that everybody makes mistakes and calls for the people's support to rebuild the nation. He urges Endara to exercise his authority as president of Panama.

The announcer continues: "We read with displeasure in EL SIGLO today, 30 January, the following: Ivan Romero of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] confirms that salary and payroll reductions are inevitable.

"Gentlemen, it looks like somebody is sawing through the floor under our president. It looks like only the PDC speaks around here. It is time for the Authentic Panamenists, those who back President Guillermo Endara, to make their presence felt. The days when newspapers just publish pictures of our president, who is the president of all the Panamanian people but who says nothing and writes nothing, must come to an end. So far only the members of the PDC make statements at the government level. Ivan Romero, who does not have any government post, is speaking on behalf of the government. What is going on? Enough is enough. We want to hear the people speak up. The Panamanian people need to see the president making decisions.

"We have to make our support for the president felt right now. Let us flood the Presidency with letters and telegrams supporting the president. We do not want three presidents. We want just one: Guillermo Endara Galimany. We want those with authority in the government to be the ones who make public statements, not those who do not have a government post. It is an indignity to make statements that should be made only by those in the government."

The announcer concludes the program at 1500 GMT with a call for national unity.

Distribution of Legislative Posts Criticized

PA3101022390 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Jan 90 p 16

[Text] The Electoral Tribunal of Panama [TEP] has appointed a high-level commission comprised of representatives from the three ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] parties and two of the COLINA

[National Liberation Coalition] parties to review those electoral circuits' tally sheets for the post of legislator, which could be gathered from the 7 May 1989 elections.

The work will be carried out almost 9 months after the elections were held and, since so much time has gone by, there is no legitimate way of determining whether these documents are the same ones that were tallied by the Electoral Circuit Vote-Counting Boards as stated by law.

For example, Article 273 of the Electoral Law textually says: "The Electoral Circuit Vote-Counting Boards will be in charge of the general counting of ballots cast in each circuit. Their headquarters will be located in one of the districts within the corresponding circuit."

Article No. 275 states the following: "The Electoral Circuit Vote-Counting Boards will proclaim as candidate-elect, in the circuits where only one legislator is elected, the candidate who received the largest amount of votes among the candidates nominated for the respective circuit."

A paragraph in Article No. 270 states: "In no case will the corresponding electoral organization abstain from making the corresponding proclamation, without affecting the right to request the annulment of the elections or the proclamations, according to what is stated in this code."

Electoral laws seem to have lost their legal reason and effect now that the presence of a democratic regime is affirmed. Electoral Circuit 8-4 fulfilled all the requirements and Legislator Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque was proclaimed the winner. If there were an irregularities in that proclamation, the ADOC representatives—all of whom signed the proclamation—had every opportunity to file a writ requesting its annulment. However, they d'd not do it, and they endorsed the proclamation.

Incredible as it seems, the TEP has disavowed these proclamations for alleged irregularities, but without giving sensible reasons.

The organization should have investigated the cases by questioning the persons who comprised the Circuit Vote-Counting Boards, to learn what really happened with the vote tally sheets. Otherwise, there is no way it can act honestly.

The citizenry asks: Can the results of a proclamation signed by the TEP representatives and the ADOC, COLINA, and Panamenist Party representatives—and duly confirmed—be less authentic than alleged incomplete vote tally sheets that were presented to a commission 9 months later?

It is appropriate at this time to review some illogical reasons which have been given, and evidently will be given, in the distribution of legislative posts. According to the details of the vote tally sheets supplied by the ADOC to the Episcopal Conference of Panama on the elections for president and vice president of the republic, the MOLIRENA [National Liberal Republican Movement] received 132,011 votes and the Authentic Liberal Party [PLA] received 69,779.

The same report indicates that the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] received 120,564 votes. How can you explain that the PLA, which got 69,779 votes, will get 11 legislative seats and the PRD, which got 120,564 votes—meaning 50,875 more than the PLA—will only get six seats?

How can you explain that the MOLIRENA, which only got 11,000 votes more than the PRD, will be given 16 seats and the PRD will only be given six seats?

In this new democracy that began last month, it is almost certain that the national government will have about 60 or 61 legislators in one of the most important state organizations, while the opposition will only have six or seven legislators. What we see is nothing more and nothing less than a copy of the system which was previously used—and which was criticized so much by the current leaders—a system of appointing a certain amount of legislators through the classic system of handpicking them, thereby eliminating a more or less representative opposition. History will clear things in due time.

Newspaper Publishes Public Opinion Poll Results

PA3101022290

[Editorial Report] Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish on 24 January 1989 publishes on pages 6A and 7A the results of a public opinion poll. The report on the poll says that "at the request of the Action Group [Grupo Accion] of the Republic of Panama, the Multispecialty Development Counselors Company, CID, carried out a national public opinion poll" on the main issues affecting the Panamanian people.

According to the report, the CID is affiliated with the Gallup International Research Institute, GIR. The CID carried out "the field work from 5-13 January 1990, and it polled 1,304 Panamanian citizens" who live in two geographic areas—the metropolitan areas of Colon and Panama, up to La Chorrera, and the rural and urban areas in the interior of the country.

The CID states: "The results show that the Panamanian people agree with the U.S. military action in their country, which they describe as a liberation action, and they accept with great satisfaction the new government headed by Guillermo Endara, Guillermo Ford, and Ricardo Arias Calderon." It adds: "For the citizens, the priority of the moment is the reconstruction of their country's economy. They do not feel they are in dire conditions, but they want to be in a better situation withing the next 2 years. The task of the new government is to achive that goal for them, and this action is decisive for the consolidation of the democratic system."

Regarding General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the CID states: "Gen. Manuel Noriega, his supporters, and the

Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, are totally discredited in the opinion of the Panamanian people." Regarding the U.S. troops, it indicates: "The U.S. Army is viewed favorably, and Panamanian citizens believe it should remain in the country as long as necessary to reestablish order. They even consider it advisable that the U.S. bases remain after the year 2000 to defend the canal, in view of a possible abolishment of the Panamanian Army."

This general overview of the poll is followed by graphs and charts indicating the responses to a number of questions such as the following:

"How do you think things will be in 2 years—better, worse, or more or less the same as now? Eight out of 10 Panamanians said they believe things will be better in the next 2 years."

Regarding the need for the U.S. military action, "9 out of 10 Panamanian adults believe the U.S. action on 20 December was necessary for the country. Those who said otherwise were mostly among the better educated."

To the question: "How likely is it that the United States will comply with the Torrijos-Carter treaties?"—54 percent said "very likely," 28 percent said "somewhat likely," and 18 percent said "not very likely."

Asked if they would recommend that the U.S. bases remain in Panama after the year 2000 for the protection of the canal, "the majority of Panamanians think it would be better for the protection of the canal if the U.S. bases remain after the year 2000." However, "one out of five of those polled would oppose the U.S. bases remaining, and one out of three college-educated respondees would not accept the U.S. bases remaining after the year 2000."

Regarding the reestablishment of an army in Panama, 79 percent said, "No, just police;" 16 percent want an army, and 5 percent are undecided.

Asked who they believed had won the 7 May 1989 elections, 98 percent said Endara, and 2 percent said Carlos Duque.

Concerning the main tasks of the new government, 23 percent think it is the reactivation of the economy; 29 percent think it is the creation of jobs; 18 percent think it is the construction of housing; 9 percent think it is the improvement of relations with other countries; 8 percent think it is the fight against drug trafficking; 5 percent think it is the disarming of citizens; and 8 percent think it is other tasks.

Changes in National Media Since 5 January

WA2401180090

[Editorial Report] FBIS has observed the following changes in Panamanian media since 5 January:.

Panama City Television

The Panamanian Government continues to control Panama City Televisora Nacional (Channel 2) and Panama City Telecinco Television (Channel 5). Panama City Sistema de Television Educativa (Channel 11), the educational and cultural station operated by the government, returned to the air on 5 January. It had been off the air since 20 December.

The privately-owned television stations Panama City Circuito RPC Television (Channel 4) and Panama City Telemetro Television (Channel 13) have resumed normal operations.

Panama City Radio

(Clandestine) La Voz de la Libertad (also called La Red Patritica de Divulgacion de la Verdad) is no longer on the air. It was last observed on 9 January.

The Panamanian Government has decided Panama City Radio Soberana Civilista (570 kHz) belongs to Alonso Pinzon, member of the Authentic Panamenist Party and the station's previous owner, instead of Gaspar "Toti" Suarez, a member of Revolutionary Panamenist Party. The station has adopted a progovernment position since 27 December, when it returned to the air for the first time since the 20 December U.S. intervention.

The equipment and transmitters of Panama City Radio B.B. (1240 kHz, 92.5 mHz FM) and Panama City Onda Popular (960 kHz) were destroyed by unknown persons on 7 January. Radio B.B. is owned by Andres Vega, a supporter of both the Torrijos and Noriega regimes. Onda Popular is owned by Noriega's brother-in-law Ramon Siero. In a letter to Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA dated 8 January, the general manager of Onda Popular said the station will be off the air for "some time."

Panama City Radio Nacional (840 kHz), flagship station of the domestic service, remains off the air. The government will decide whether to resume operations or to disband the station. According to reports, Radio Nacional is the only domestic service affiliate not operating; affiliated stations in the country's interior are operating normally. Panama City EL SIGLO reported on 23 January that a former domestic service affiliate in Santiago, Veraguas Province, was reopened. The station, formerly called Radio Urraca, now is called Radio ESY Estatal and was reopened by order of the provincial governor with "new operators." No provincial affiliates of the domestic service have been monitored.

Since 5 January, the Panamanian Government has identified additional radio stations under government control. They include: Panama City Radio Tic Tac (1080

kHz), owned by former Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) Legislator Rigoberto Paredes; Panama City Estereo Rey (102.5 mHz FM), owned by PRD officials Mario Rognoni and Ruben Dario Murgas; Estereo Festival (95.9 mHz FM,) owned by Boris Moreno, Sr., former presidential information secretary and director of the 1989 election media center, and former Deputy Government and Justice Minister Tarigdio Bernal; and Aguadulce Radio Poderosa (1000 kHz) owned by PRD presidential candidate Carlos Duque and Italo Rojas.

The status of Panama City Radio Cadena Millonaria (1350 kHz), which was thought to be under government control, is unclear. The station has been airing a political commentary program called "The Hot Seat." The phone-in segment of show has included pro-Noriega, anti-American telephone callers. The program's host is station owner Balbino Macias.

On 9 January, Aris de Icaza, owner of La Exitosa Network, said "the great Exitosa Network" will probably be back on the air nationwide before the end of January. He said Panama City La Exitosa's use of its sister station Radio Alegre's frequency (1270 kHz) is only temporary. La Exitosa's normal frequency is 740 kHz.

Panama City Radio KW Continente (700 kHz), on 9 January discontinued simulcast programming with Panama City Radio Sonora (1120 kHz) and Panama City Estereo Linda (103.1 mHz FM). Each station is broadcasting its own programming.

Panama City Press

The Editora Renovacion, S.A., which published the pro-Noreiga regime newspapers MATUTINO, CRITICA, and LA REPUBLICA, was returned to Gilberto Arias and Rosario Arias de Galindo, who owned the company prior to the October 1968 military coup. The company began publishing EL PANAMA AMERICA on 5 January. EL PANAMA AMERICA carries items from the AFP, DPA, and ACAN-EFE news agencies. The newspaper claims to be independent, but the editoral line, thus far, supports the government.

Editora Renovacion also began publishing CRITICA LIBRE, formerly called CRITICA, on 5 January. The newspaper no longer carries items from PRENSA LATINA, TASS, and INTERPRESS, nor does it carry critica's political columns. CRITICA LIBRE gives the impression that it will continue using the sensational reporting style of CRITICA, albeit with a progovernment editorial line.

Panama City LA PRENSA resumed publication on 8 January. It carries items from UPI, EFE, and ACAN-EFE. The newspaper's editorial line is progovernment.

Argentina

March Visit by Costa Rican President Announced

PY3101131490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1005 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Jan (TELAM)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias will visit Argentina during the second half of March in response to President Carlos Menem's special invitation.

This information was confirmed this morning by Vice President Eduardo Duhalde, who arrived from Costa Rica where he and President Arias analyzed recent events in South America and the Central American conflict.

Duhalde, who arrived at the Ezeiza International Airport at 0945, also visited Honduras, where he attended the presidential inauguration.

Menem Nominates Vaquir as New Defense Secretary

PY3001143490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1135 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Mar del Plata, 29 Jan (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has confirmed that Omar Vaquir will replace Ricardo Luder as defense secretary.

Menem made this statement in Pinamar to the newspaper LA CAPITAL of Mar del Plata. He said that Italo Luder "tendered his resignation because he is a gentleman and he knows I was going to ask him for it."

The chief of state said that "each government official must complete a phase of work and Luder has already completed his." The president added that the Defense Ministry will now dedicate itself to national defense production "and the former minister did not understand this." [passage omitted]

Menem Accepts SIDE Chief's Resignation

PY3001131890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0023 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Jan (TELAM)—Presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo announced tonight that President Carlos Menem has accepted the resignation of Juan Bautista Yofre, head of the Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE).

In statements to Government House journalists, Toledo said that the name of Yofre's successor will be known in 48 hours.

He said that the SIDE head presented his written resignation this afternoon, citing "personal reasons" but "also reasons connected with the major reorganization" within his secretariat.

The spokesman said that this reorganization "is being carried out as part of the state reform plan and that Yofre thinks he has concluded an important process and phase" as head of the secretariat.

Toledo said that as a result of this reorganization "nearly 40 percent of SIDE personnel and operations [movilidad]" will no longer be attached to this secretariat.

Cavallo on Alleged Resignation, South Africa

PY3101105090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2338 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Jan (DYN)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said tonight that there is "a campaign to discredit the Foreign Ministry." He also denied rumors about alleged misunderstandings with other government officials and about his alleged effort to obtain a donation of wheat for Nicaragua.

The foreign minister announced that the Argentine Government "has begun talks" with South Africa seeking "to upgrade our relations with this country, following the progress observed within the South African Government to modify" its racist apartheid policy.

Cavallo was speaking in the Government House press hall following a day of rumors regarding his alleged resignation that were supposedly based on misunderstandings with Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa.

The foreign minister said the "report published today by the newspaper AMBITO FINANCIERO stating that I am trying to obtain a donation of wheat for Nicaragua is totally false."

Cavallo said he has already informed President Menem of this fact and added that "the same newspaper will tomorrow publish another false report stating that the foreign minister is allegedly trying to force the Economy Ministry to approve a credit for Cuba that was promised by the former administration."

The foreign minister said that former President Raul Alfonsin's administration promised to donate wheat to Nicaragua and "to grant Cuba $140 million in credits for each $100 million worth of purchases from Argentina, that is, a $40 million credit per year."

Cavallo said that "our administration is unable to comply" with these credit promises made by the Radical Civic Union administration, "which in all, amount to $1 billion." He said that the Economy and Foreign Ministries will analyze "priorities" in keeping with "the national budget feasibilities."

When asked about alleged "misunderstandings" with Mera Figueroa and First Lady Zulema Yoma, Cavallo said "they are careless and groundless rumors." He suggested the reporters "ask the minister and the president's wife" about it.

Regarding South Africa, the foreign minister said that by upgrading relations the Argentine Government intends

to "encourage the attempts by South African authorities to modify" the apartheid system.

He said that Argentina proposes "to upgrade the Argentine Consulate in Johannesburg and the South African Consulate in Buenos Aires into first-class consulates and to improve trade relations" between the two countries.

Cavallo also reported that Argentina has been nominated by the Group of Eight to occupy the vice presidency of the UN Human Rights Committee.

Foreign Ministry: Wheat Donation Report 'False'

PY3101111990 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2211 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Jan (Telam)—The Foreign Ministry today stated that "it has not carried out any official or unofficial negotiations with the Grain Board or any other organization to obtain a donation of 5,000 tons of wheat for Nicaragua."

Through a news communique, the Foreign Ministry states that a report on the subject published by "AMBITO FINANCIERO" on its front page "is completely false."

The communique adds that "the Foreign Ministry respects the freedom of the press and its doors are open to the media for any consultation to contribute to the essential task of keeping the people objectively informed."

British Entrepreneur Buys Shares in Mill, Daily

PY3001223690 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Jan 90 p A10

[Report by Buenos Aires correspondent Roger Ferreira]

[Text] British entrepreneur Robert Maxwell this week purchased 12 percent of Prensa Papel company shares for $1.8 million.

PRENSA PAPEL is the largest of the three newspaper paper mills in the country. Maxwell purchased the shares from LA RAZON, which used to be one of the most important newspapers in Latin America with 1 million copies per day. LA RAZON stopped printing on 20 December and 700 workers are currently occupying the newspaper building.

Maxwell intends to take over LA RAZON in the next few days and restart publication in early February.

Maxwell and Rupert Murdoch, also a British subject, are the two most important names in the information field in the world.

Maxwell wants to consolidate his influence in the company by benefiting from the privatization of PRENSA PAPEL by the Argentine Government. The state presently owns 50.1 percent of PRENSA PAPEL company shares.

Maxwell's movements in Argentina are totally confidential. He arrived in Argentina on 17 October—barely 1 hour after Argentina and the United Kingdom decided in Madrid to resume consular relations. Maxwell told President Menem that he was willing to invest $200 million in communications, oil, and hotels in Argentina. He then disappeared from the news.

LA RAZON is based in an eight-story building covering 20,000 square meters that was inaugurated in 1976. The high-speed Goss Headliner Mark 2 printing machines weigh 650 tons. The Argentine Government committed itself to help reactivate the newspaper even though workers will not accept dismissals.

Mendoza Province Trades With Soviet Company

PY3001221890 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 29 Jan 90 p 12

[Text] Mendoza—The provincial government, through the Economy Ministry, has agreed to trade wine for the installation of Soviet power lines for trolleybuses with the participation of local enterprises, and a pilot project to expand the public transportation service.

The agreement includes other projects and it was signed by provincial Economy Minister Rodolfo Gabrielli and Soviet Commercial Attache Anatoliy Timochenko.

The ceremony was attended by Pavel Dikunov, chief engineer of the Soviet mission, Mario Sosto of the Interar Company, and Mario Lazaro, who is the general manager of the Argentine Metal Industry Association (IMAA).

They also agreed to create a subcommittee which will prepare several projects "that will be discussed during the upcoming Argentine-Soviet Mixed Commission meeting in Buenos Aires next March."

The agreement also includes the purchase of Soviet antihail equipment from the Soviet Selkhozpromeksport enterprise and the sale of IMAA agroindustrial equipment to Selkhozpromeksport. An agreement was also reached for Soviet cooperation to create a weather research center to cover the entire country. It is expected that two Soviet officials will visit the province. One of them will be from Goskomhidromet, which is a specialized organization, and the other will be the general director of Tekhmasheksport. There will also be an exchange of technology in the manufacture of antihail ramps and accessories.

The agreement also refers to the project for construction of the Nihuil Cuatro hydroelectric plant based on a previous agreement reached by Governor Jose Octavio Bordon with Soviet Ambassador Oleg Kvasov. According to this agreement the Soviet Union will prepare the project and proposals and Mendoza officials will confirm "their particular interest in reaching an agreement to build the project in the San Rafael region."

This agreement also includes studies to build the Los Blancos Dam with Soviet cooperation. The Soviets will establish the necessary contacts "for the participation of companies of Mendoza Province in the construction of the small dams which are not being built by Argentine companies." There is also a proposal for the supply of tools and machinery.

Minister Gabrielli emphasized the role of the subcommittee that will study the various stages established in the agreement, and also the role of the provincial private enterprises. He added that the government objective is to increase commercial relations with the Soviet Union to $50 million per year, especially in the industrial area.

Oil Exports Increase 111 Percent in 1989

PY3001170990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1428 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 29 Jan (EFE)—It was reported today in Buenos Aires that Argentine exports of oil and oil by-products reached $349 million in 1989, 111 percent more than in the previous year.

Bolivia

Committee Opposes U.S. Troops in Antidrug Work

PY3001142590 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The Foreign Affairs and Worship Committee of the Chamber of Deputies has decided to advise President Jaime Paz Zamora to avoid agreeing to the presence of U.S. troops in Bolivian territory for the antidrug struggle.

The committee believes that our sovereignty should be preserved and that any commitment of that type should be avoided.

Paz Zamora is to attend the presidential summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

Minister To Attend Nonaligned Meeting in Cuba

PY3001150890 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Elena Velasco Urresti has said that Bolivian women have many opportunities for participating in national activities, especially within the government of national unity.

Velasco Urresti made this remark shortly before leaving for Cuba where she will represent Bolivia at a meeting of nonaligned countries. The objective of the meeting is to assess the participation of women in the development of each nation.

Brazil

Quayle Tour, U.S. Position in Region Questioned

PY3101022290 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Jan 90 p A -16

[Report by Newton Carlos]

[Text] U.S. President Bush personally announced that Vice President Dan Quayle would visit several Latin American countries. Bush admitted that the invasion of Panama on 20 December had caused some "damage" to relations between the United States and Latin America and that it was necessary to discuss the subject. The attempt to establish a naval blockade of Colombia increased suspicions that the United States was resuming its military interventions. Following the presidential inauguration in Honduras yesterday, Quayle was to continue his trip to hold other "important meetings." However, Quayle's tour has mysteriously been "suspended" except for short stopovers in Panama and Jamaica.

It was reported in the United States that Quayle did not receive the necessary "invitations" and that Latin American governments did not recommend any visit, because of the recent invasion of Panama. The fact is that an avalanche of opposing Latin American votes is about to fall on North American diplomacy.

This avalanche began on 20 October 1989 when Cuba was elected a member of the UN Security Council with the support of all of the continent's votes. On 22 December the OAS requested the withdrawal of the troops that invaded Panama. Even the new Panamanian president installed by the United States has complained about the lack of recognition from Latin American governments.

Inflation Rate Reaches 56.1 Percent in January

PY3101024090 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] reported today that inflation in January totaled 56.1 percent.

The accumulated inflation rate of the last 12 months reached 1,609 percent, while savings passbooks will pay 56.89 percent. The National Treasury bonus for February will be worth 17.09 new cruzados, and the minimum salary for that month will be 2,004.37 new cruzados.

President-Elect Collor Visits Japan 28-30 Jan

WA2901194590

For coverage of the 3-day visit of President-Elect Fernando Collor de Mello to Japan, including meetings with Japanese Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister

Toshiki Kaifu, see the Japan section of the 29 January East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Chile

Navy Commander Resigns; To Be Replaced in March

PY3001221290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has tendered his resignation as the Navy commander. Adm. Merino has reported that he will leave his post as Navy commander on 8 March. He added that Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch will replace him sometime between 8-11 March.

Adm. Merino made this announcement following an extraordinary government junta meeting this afternoon.

Merino, Errazuriz Discuss Junta Meeting

PY3101015790 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino will retire on 8 March and Rear Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch will replace him as Navy commander in chief. This was announced by Adm. Merino himself at the Diego Portales Building before he reported on today's special Government Junta session.

[Merino] "I presented my resignation for 8 March 1990 and Rear Adm. Jorge Martinez Busch will replace me on that date. This subject has nothing to do with the Government Junta [words indistinct]. He will thus be a Government Junta member from 8-11 March [words indistinct]."

Adm. Merino was then asked why an officer who is third in seniority would replace him. He answered:

[Merino] "Because he has been appointed and because, yes, it is my wish; that is how life is. Some people are luckier than others. I was not appointed by anyone; I appointed myself, if you must know."

Five laws were approved by the Government Junta this afternoon, including an industrial property law that regulates patent rights in the pharmaceutical industry. Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, who attended the Government Junta session, said the following::

[Errazuriz] "It is a law in keeping with the times. Creations and inventions are linked to research. Whoever carries out the research and creates a new product must at least be compensated with the legitimate profits from his creation. This law will protect inventors. It is a legitimate protection, an aspect of modern trade, post-industrial society, and Chile's integration with other countries."

Errazuriz pointed out that the pharmaceutical industry will be able to continue manufacturing the products it has been manufacturing up to now, but in the future it will have to pay patent rights.

Other laws modifying the mining code and the Chilean Committee of Nuclear Energy were also approved today. The Government Junta also approved new regulations for the Electoral Court organizational charter.

Regarding today's escape of political prisoners from the public prison, Adm Merino said:

[Merino] "I think that they were helped by people inside and outside, because no one can dig a 20, 30, or 40-meter tunnel without anybody else noticing. All the earth that was dug up must have been put someplace. The inmates did not eat earth, because earth is not good for one's health, right? Just see how they clogged up all the sewage system."

[Reporter] "Who do you think is involved?"

[Merino] "Who was on the inside?"

[Reporter] "Inmates."

[Merino] "And who else?"

[Reporter] "But you said inside and outside."

[Merino] "[Words indistinct] where they have been, and those outside must be the inmates' friends, who have financed the attack against President Pinochet and who imported weapons. They are the Communists, socialists, MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] members, and I do not know who else."

It was reported at the Diego Portales Building that the next Government Junta session will be held on 20 February.

Prisoners Escape in Santiago, Seek Asylum

PY3001135490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] According to unofficial information, Carabineros have already captured some 10-12 of the approximately 50 inmates who escaped from Santiago prison at approximately 0300 this morning. [passage omitted]

The gendarmerie and Carabineros urge all citizens to remain calm. The dragnet operations, they add, are for the public's safety because the inmates at large are regarded as very dangerous. [passage omitted]

We are now stationed in front of the Santiago prison on General Mackenna Street betweem Teatinos and Amunategui Streets.

Many members of the security forces and some light tanks of the Carabineros Special Operations Forces are deployed in the neighborhood.

A group of relatives of the escapees were standing in front of the prisons, and they reported having received phone calls from escapees who said they were safe and are about to contact—or have already contacted—some

embassies to request political asylum. It is thought that just a few are seeking asylum and that the rest of the escapees are being used to distract security forces. However, this information is not quite clear. The criminals who will request political asylum have already contacted the Vicariate of Solidarity. This information will be disclosed shortly, probably through an official communique that will be distributed to some sectors of the media.

According to the information we have at hand, the Carabineros are strictly controlling traffic, although people are allowed to circulate freely. All highways and airports, especially access highways to the Santiago metropolitan area, have been closed. Operations continue, and there is still no accurate information on the number of inmates who have escaped and the number who have been recaptured. [passage omitted]

More on Escape

PY3001200690 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] A total of 50 inmates, among whom are 9 charged with participating in the attack against President Augusto Pinochet [in September 1986] made a spectacular escape from the Santiago prison at dawn today. [passage omitted]

Minister Secretary General of Government Colonel Christian Labbe said the escape of 50 political prisoners from the Santiago prison at dawn today was extremely serious.

Labbe said that those who escaped from prison are dangerous subversive criminals and terrorists. He added that some of them were involved in the attack against President Augusto Pinochet, in the clandestine importation of arms caches, in the attack against Los Quenes police station where a Carabinero died, and in the kidnap of Commander Carlos Carreno.

Minister Labbe added that among those who escaped is (Alfredo Maldrich), a member of the gang which brought arsenals into the country. Since not all the weapons were found, it is thought that (Maldrich) may know where they are hidden. [passage omitted]

Supported by Demonstration

PY3001211090 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Report by Angel Ramos]

[Text] We are outside the public prison located on General Mackenna Street, where hundreds of people—many of whom are relatives of the inmates who escaped from prison today at dawn—are demonstrating on behalf of the political prisoners. Let us talk with Liliana Castillo, vice president of the National Human Rights Coordinating Board, who will inform us of the situation here.

[Begin recording] [Castillo] Political, social, and human rights organizations and relatives of political prisoners are gathered here to request: First, solidarity with the inmates who exerted their legitimate right to escape, which is not considered a crime in this country; and second, to demand safety for the inmates who remain in this prison. As relatives, and I am the wife of one of the inmates who escaped, we believe their escape somewhat reflects the current situation.

When one learns that a judge like Rene Garcia Villegas has been removed from his post, one cannot expect the rest of the inmates to be fairly and objectively tried by court. We think the inmates exerted their legitimate right and we are here to express our solidarity with all the inmates who still remain in prison.

[Ramos] Won't this escape worsen their legal status?

[Castillo] No, not at all. It cannot make their situation worse because an inmate's right to escape from prison is not punishable in Chile.

[Ramos] What will your position be if these political prisoners are again imprisoned?

[Castillo] It is not easy to say because each political prisoner is a living witness of what the repressive apparatus of this regime has done. These prisoners were tortured for 22, 25, and even 42 days in prison. We are very worried about six young men who were caught after escaping today. They are now in the 1st Carabineros precinct, although the Carabineros reported that everything is normal. We call on the public to help our inmate friends who exerted their right to escape, and we call on the repressive apparatus to behave. They have experienced a period of torture, and we hope that the lives of the inmates who escaped and the six who were caught again will be respected. [end recording]

That was Liliana Castillo, vice president of the National Human Rights Coordinating Board, on the situation outside the public prison where there is a demonstration in favor of the political prisoners, and on the consequences of the escape of 49 inmates, 7 of whom are connected with the attack on the president, and 8 of whom were sentenced to death.

Legal Status Revealed

PY3001215690 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] About 100 men who were being tried for subversive crimes were being held in the preventive public prison located on Amunategui, Teatinos, and General Mackenna Streets. These criminals are part of the group of 439 inmates who have been charged with political crimes and who are being held in different Chilean prisons.

Only 84 of these criminals have been sentenced by court; 13 were given life sentences, 19 were given death sentences, and 10 are accused of having participated in the

attack against President Pinochet in September 1987. Nine of this latter group escaped today at dawn. [passage omitted]

This is a report by Rodrigo Reyes from a mobile unit:

[Begin Reyes recording] We have obtained some information about the legal cases of the 50 inmates who are being processed by military courts and who escaped from prison today, 7 of whom have already been caught.

Eight of the inmates who escaped are being tried for participating in the attack against President Pinochet. Their names are: (Arnaldo Arenas Bejar), Juan Moreno Avila, Jorge Angulo Gonzalez, Ricardo Contreras Sanchez, (Renin Peralta Velis), (Mauricio Arenas Bejar), and Victor Diaz Caro. Ricardo Carlos Urzua has been described as a person who aided in the attack against the chief of state.

Eight of the principal men responsible for hiding arms caches in Carrizal Bajo area in the Third Region, also escaped from prison today at dawn. Their names are: Alfredo Maldrich Baltra, Juan Marquez Miranda, Italo Moya Escanilla, Rafael Pascual Arias, (Diego Mira Mathus), Jose Delgado Zapata, (Mauricio Gomez Roges), and Claudio Molina Donoso.

The kidnappers of the Cruzat boy also escaped from prison: Ricardo Hermosilla Dias, Humberto Vargas Calderon, and Luis Quintana Contreras.

The rest of the inmates who escaped were being tried for the attack against Los Quenes Carabineros station, for hurling bombs at the Army, for maintaining clandestine clinics, and for illegal possession of weapons and explosives. [passage omitted]

The names of the six inmates who were caught after escaping today and who are being held incommunicado in the 1st Carabineros Precinct are: Jorge Valdivia Espinoza, Marcelo Rodriguez Herrera, Horacio Rodriguez Herrera, Pedro Marin Hernandez, Carlos Pino Molina, and Manuel Araneda Gonzales. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Issue Explanatory Communique

PY3101125090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] In a communique disclosed through a telephone call, the leftist terrorists who escaped from Santiago prison have explained that a group of 24 inmates organized the escape and dug the tunnel, thus giving other inmates the opportunity to escape.

The communique states that in view of the location of the tunnel entrance it is quite unlikely that common criminals also managed to escape. They also confirm that all 49 escapees, of which 6 were caught, are political prisoners charged and tried for subversive and terrorist activities.

The escapees also explained that they began early last year to dig the tunnel through which they escaped and that it had a ventilation system, electric light, and a rail system to remove the earth.

Since early 1989 a group of political prisoners began to dig a tunnel more than 100 meters long through which they escaped from prison. The tunnel went under Balmaceda Avenue and subway line No. 2. It ended in an inside patio of the Mapocho railroad station.

The tunnel was left open after the group of 24 inmates that organized the operation had left. We believe, therefore, that a second group of political prisoners may have also managed to escape.

In view of the location of the tunnel entrance it is quite unlikely that common criminals would have escaped through it.

The communique then states: We reiterate that the 24 original members of the operation are safe and in good health.

Freedom is a right and to preserve it is the duty of any patriot and revolutionary. Freedom to all political prisoners.

The communique is signed by Alfredo Maldrich, (Raul Blanche), (Miguel Montecinos), (Luis Melo), and (German Alfaro).

Communists Deny Responsibility

PY3101133490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The proscribed Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has justified the massive escape of terrorists from the Santiago public prison and asserted that it was not responsible for the escape.

This information was disclosed by Guillermo Sherping, a member of the PCCh Central Committee, who added that they will ask Patricio Aylwin's government to immediately release all the so-called political prisoners.

Decision by UN Commission 'Very Good News'

PY3001151190 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has described as very good news the decision made by the UN Human Right's Commission to leave the individual analysis of the Chilean case, which began in 1975, off its agenda.

On 29 January, the 43 countries that make up this commission unanimously approved the decision on the Chilean case.

Errazuriz, however, made it clear that there are still some decisions, such as the permanent status of UN special observer Fernando Volio, about which the commission

has not yet made a decision. Errazuriz said that for years we have described as discriminatory the consideration of the Chilean case as a specific point. He added that time has shown that Chile has had an exemplary economic and political process.

He said our peaceful transition to democracy is a reality and we have proved it with concrete actions. Those who charged that we sought to polarize politics and perpetuate our government were wrong.

PPD Sets Political Position, Priority Targets

PY3001200090 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Ricardo Lagos has said the strengthening of the Party for Democracy, PPD, is the most important result of a recent general party meeting. The PPD leadership this morning reported on the political position adopted during the general meeting. PPD leaders decided that the party will adopt an independent position which will welcome different ideologies on the basis of a common program. Among the priority targets of the PPD are the modification of the current institutions, the struggle for human rights—for which they suggested the creation of a special statute—the modification of labor legislation, the promotion of economic growth and social justice, and the promotion of a comprehensive reform of the municipal regime.

South Pacific Organization Moves to Santiago

PY3001175690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific will begin operating from Santiago—where it will remain for 4 years—as of 1 February.

Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru make up the organization. Panama and Costa Rica participate as observers.

Secretary General Ambassador Hugo Llanos released the information that the commission was moving to Santiago. The Permanent Commission of the South Pacific was created in 1952. Every 4 years the commission's headquarters is moved to the capital of another of its member countries.

Private Sector Buys State News Agency ORBE

PY3001232490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The state news agency ORBE has been sold to the private sector for 6.6 million pesos. According to Minister Secretary General of Government Colonel Cristian Labbe, the money will be used to put in order the financial situation of the state-owned Radio Nacional and Television Nacional, which owned two-thirds and one-third of ORBE respectively.

Although the ORBE news agency was sold last 11 December, Minister Labbe only reported the fact today. Labbe first reported the news to Enrique Correa, his successor, and then to the media. Labbe said the sale was a direct transaction and that the purchasers are Finan Chile Ltd., which bought two-thirds of ORBE's shares for 4.4 million pesos; and Fernando Malatesta Garcia, who bought one-third of the news agency's shares for 2.2 million pesos.

When asked about the low price for which ORBE was sold, Minister Labbe said these figures were determined by the financial needs of the news agency, whose debts amount to 16 million pesos, plus a 2-million peso monthly deficit.

Labbe did not wish to explain why Radio Nacional and Television Nacional, which are state companies, did not call a public bid to sell their shares in ORBE. Labbe said that this question will be answered by the news agency's director. However, the sale was made in keeping with a policy of selling nonessential state assets and to allow Radio Nacional and Television Nacional to be passed down to the next administration in the best financial condition possible. As for Radio Nacional, Labbe said it also sold its ORBE shares to improve its operational situation.

The minister added that he informed Enrique Correa of the state media situation, and of the functioning of this state secretariat. Labbe reported that he will again meet with Correa on 1 February. In turn, Minister Secretary General of Government-designate Enrique Correa said that he will inform President-elect Patricio Aylwin of the status of ORBE news agency and of Radio Nacional, and that he will await his instructions before adopting any decision.

Correa also reported that the future administration will transform the state media into a public media; this means it will become a media accessible to all the political, cultural, and artistic trends of Chilean society. Correa said: We do not want an officialist press, radio, or television; we think Chile wants the media to help in our national dialogue, coexistence, and democratic reconstruction.

Small Bomb Damages Santiago Court Building

PY3001181190 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpt] A small bomb exploded last night slightly damaging the frame of a door at the court building on Compania Street between Morande and Banderas Streets.

A scarf of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front was found at the scene. Therefore, it is believed the attack was perpetrated by a single terrorist.

The bomb exploded after 2300 damaging one of the entrance doors. It also shattered all the glass in a booth inside the court building.

According to Carabinero officer Marcelo Vargas, the bomb was activated mechanically, thus allowing the perpetrator time to flee before it exploded. [passage omitted]

Colombia

5,000 Men To Protect Presidents at Cartagena

PA3001200390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1713 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 30 Jan (EFE)—It has been reported that 5,000 men will protect the presidents of Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and the United States during their 15 February meeting in Cartagena. President George Bush will be the most closely guarded, although the "Extraditables" have said they will not attack him.

The "Extraditables," the armed branch of the Medellin Cartel, the most important drug organization in the world, have issued a communique rejecting reports they plan to attack Bush.

The "Extraditables" claim that "these reports are part of a plan designed to detract credibility from our peace proposals." Two weeks ago they proposed a plan to the Colombian Government to end the war and stop shipment of cocaine abroad.

Members of the National Police, the Department of Explosives of the Secret Police, and naval patrol units have already begun reconnaissance and patrol operations off the Caribbean coast, 800 km north of Boogta.

The first controls are at the airport, where all arriving cargo or baggage is carefully monitored. The next step is at the hotels, where all visitors are asked to confirm their identification, and where they came from. Their baggage is also checked.

The most carefully patrolled areas of the city are those near the International Convention Center—the communications center for approximately 1,500 newsmen who will cover the event.

The presidents' meeting place is the VIP guest house in Cartagena Bay. It is so inaccessible that it hardly needs additional protection—its only neighbor is the Cartagena Naval Base, the most important in Colombia.

However, the house, which has only one entrance, will be constantly overflown by helicopters during the meeting, and the island's coasts will be protected by vessels and frogmen.

Bush's arrival in Cartagena, where he will remain for only 5 or 6 hours, has been preceded by greatly varied reports concerning the drug lords' plans to attack him.

A U.S. television station recently revealed an alleged plan by the Medellin Cartel to shoot down Bush's plane with surface-to-air missiles.

The U.S. President is expected to arrive in Cartagena on 15 February in the morning and will leave that same day.

It has not yet been decided whether Bush and his group will arrive directly at "Crespo" Airport in Cartagena, from which he will be flown by helcopter to the island, or if the helicopter will pick him up on the nuclear-powered aircrat carrier "Eisenhower."

U.S. Embassy sources in Bogota have told EFE that a report about Bush going to Panama, before coming to Cartagena, to congratulate the troops that participated in the invasion on 20 December, is "only a rumor."

The summit meeting will last less than a day. Neither the host, President Barco, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, nor Peruvian President Alan Garcia, whose participation has not yet been confirmed, will stay overnight in Cartagena.

'Extraditables' Deny Planning Attack on Bush

PA3001152690 Paris AFP in Spanish 1456 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 30 Jan (AFP)—Colombian drug mafias have denied that they are preparing an attack on the life of U.S. President George Bush, who will visit this Caribbean colonial beach resort on 15 February for an antidrug summit meeting.

Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, Colombian President Virgilio Barco, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, and U.S. President George Bush will sign a manifesto in Cartagena that was designed in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. The document will outline strategies they will adopt to fight drug trafficking.

The mysterious clandestine group, the "Extraditables,'-'—the armed branch of the Medellin Cartel drug traffickers—said in a bulletin released early this morning that the reports of a possible attack on Bush in Cartagena are false.

"These reports are part of a plan to undermine the credibility of all our peace proposals," the document said. In the document, the "Extraditables" also [words indistinct].

Last weekend, the U.S. CBS Television Network reported the possibility of an attack by drug traffickers with rockets and missiles on Bush's plane in Cartagena.

In a statement by Foreign Minister Julio Londono, the Colombian Government said it had no knowledge of terrorist plans against the U.S. President, and added that U.S. and Colombian security organizations were capable of guaranteeing the safety of the four presidents.

The Extraditables, a mafia group based in Medellin in northwest Colombia, have been insisting since 17 January that they want a peace dialogue with the administration of Liberal President Virgilio Barco, who declared war on the drug traffickers in August 1989.

In their initial peace proposal, the Extraditables promised the suspension of shipments of cocaine to the United States, the surrender of weapons, and the release of people they have kidnapped.

In complying with these promises, they have released six hostages in good condition, and on 29 January began to deliver dynamite by abandoning a school bus loaded with 1,000 kg of explosives south of Medellin.

In today's communique, the Extraditables denied reports that they are holding [Colombian Foreign Ministry official] Garcia-Pena Archila. The communique states that the Extraditables have been the victims of unscrupulous people who called the Medellin media to say the Extraditables are responsible for the kidnapping.

They say that after having released six hostages, the holding of Garcia-Pena Archila, who is the head of the Visa Office of the Colombian Foreign Ministry in Bogota, "would be contrary to our peace offers."

Garcia-Pena Archila was recently appointed adviser to the Colombian Embassy in Korea, a post he was scheduled to assume on 26 January, the day he disappeared.

The Extraditables announced in their communique of today that within the next few days they will deliver a helicopter belonging to the Colombian firm Helicol that they had been holding. The helicopter is loaded with 500 kg of dynamite, the communique notes.

The document states that this dynamite "was to be used against a military objective." The group led by Pablo Escobar Gaviria notes: "We have demonstrated and we will continue to demonstrate to the country our goodwill and our desire for peace and the strengthening of democracy."

Deny Kidnapping Diplomat

PA3001131690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1210 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Medellin—The so-called Extraditables have denied that they are holding Roberto Garcia-Pena Archilla, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Visa Department.

Yesterday, telephone calls to several Medellin media had disclosed that the Extraditables were going to release Garcia-Pena with a communique for the national government. However, early today, the group denied these reports. In a telephone call, the Extraditables said: It would be absurd to hold more people when all we have done over the past 15 days is release those we had kidnapped.

The whereabouts of Garcia-Pena, who disappeared in Bogota on 26 January, are still unknown. Yesterday, The Extraditables delivered a school bus loaded with 1,000 kg of dynamite as proof, they said, of their desire for peace in Colombia.

Escobar Gaviria Writes to Newspaper

PA3001195390 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Jan 89 p 8A

["Text" of letter by drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria to EL TIEMPO editor Hernando Santos in Bogota; date not given]

[Text] Mr. Hernando Santos, EL TIEMPO editor, Bogota. Dear Editor: The EL TIEMPO article published yesterday stating that "a security corps spokesman said that many of Escobar's aides have withdrawn their support from him owing to the campaign the 4th Brigade is carrying out in Antioquia Department," constitutes ample proof of the existence of the enemies of peace, which fortunately are few in number.

They only try to disinform the people and the country, and that is why they use the identity numbers of demented persons to achieve their objectives and make remarks removed from the truth. My being free constitutes the best proof I have to show the country that the people do not sell me out and that my friends neither abandon nor betray me.

Mr. Editor: To dispel all doubts your newspaper article may create, I want to say that if some day the Colombian Government decides to strive for the peace of our people, in a courageous and sovereign manner, it will find a long and unending list of Extraditables, drug traffickers, hired assassins, and paramilitary groups wanting to accompany it in this peace process.

The article also says that according to a security corps spokesman the Cali Cartel gentlemen handle things differently; that becomes evident if we consider they were the ones who informed on Mr. Jorge Luis Ochoa in Palmira. And in Cartagena, the security corps did not follow Freddy Rodriguez, and a common citizen did not collect a reward for informing on Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. Jorge Velasquez, alias the Navegante, who works for the Cali Cartel, informed on Gonzalo Rodriguez.

As your newspaper article says, it is clear the Cali Cartel gentlemen "handle things differently," because they do not preach violence, but they go about beheading people and are responsible for the disappearance of dozens of innocent citizens who visit Cali for one reason or another. Those who placed 700 kg of dynamite in the building where my innocent family lived are not terrorists either, and I am not going into the details of the kidnappings of several Swiss industrialists some years ago.

If it is clear that we and the Cali people have a problem, it is also true that the Valle del Cauca Department people are not to blame for that problem. I deeply admire and respect the Valle del Cauca residents as my wife, Victoria, and her ancestors are from this this beautiful land.

It is also true that on several occasions I have received peace proposals from the Cali gentlemen. I have rejected them because I deemed them inadvisable and inopportune, but I have never rejected dialogue as the alternative to a solution, because I have always had the peace of our families and the tranquillity of the Antioquia and Valle del Cauca residents in mind.

Army Arrests Suspected 'Extraditable', Others

PA3101015890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0030 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 30 Jan (EFE)—Suspected "Extraditable" Julio Fabio Urdinola, two cousins of drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria, and 25 others were arrested today when the Colombian Army's 8th Brigade searched 10 farms in northern Valle del Cauca Department, 200 km west of Bogota.

Eighth Brigade Commander Colonel Celso Suarez Martinez said the suspected "Extraditable" used the name of Julio Mario Guzman Munoz, as his false identification card and military draft card indicated. He also said Julio Fabio Urdinola might be wanted by U.S. courts.

According to the colonel, the troops also arrested Daisy and Hernan Escobar Valencia, cousins of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the "number one man" of the Medellin Cartel, and 25 others are being investigated to decide if they will be jailed or released.

Suarez Martinez indicated that the searches and arrests were carried out as part of the "Sunflower Plan" being undertaken by his military unit against drug trafficking in that region of the country.

Fighting Between Army, FARC Reported in Meta

PA3101005890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0011 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] At this time, there is heavy fighting and even Army bombing of FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] camps near Uribe in Meta Department. The clashes are taking place in Jardin de las Penas, in Mesetas municipality, near the place at which the FARC secretariat headquarters is located.

This reaction by the military is in answer to the FARC ambush of a military patrol on 28 January, resulting in five soldiers dead and seven wounded. In addition, the Army's intensive actions are also caused by the desire to put a stop to FARC attacks and kidnappings of political and economic leaders in the area.

Armed Men Gun Down Two Labor Leaders

PA3001201490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1936 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 30 Jan (DPA)—It has been reported in Bogota that two labor leaders, who worked in a corporation in industrial exploitation of oil palm, today were assassinated by several heavily armed men in San Alberto in the country's north.

Epaminondas Alzate and Felipe Blanco were gunned down with machine-gun fire at the time they left the facilities of the industrial concern Indupalma.

Two other labor members were seriously wounded in the attack, which the authorities have begun to investigate.

Over the past few years, dozens of labor leaders have been assassinated in Colombia in actions attributed to far-rightist paramilitary groups financed by drug-trafficking kingpins.

ELN Attacks Cause ECOPETROL Losses

PA3001134590 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1217 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota—The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (ECOPETROL) has failed to generate 9 billion pesos in crude oil exports, which were temporarily suspended because of the three attacks perpetrated this year by guerrilla forces of the Army of National Liberation (ELN).

ECOPETROL sources told Radio Cadena Nacional that the enterprise's finances will be affected if the guerrilla actions continue because, in addition to the millions in losses caused by the oil spill and repair of the pipelines, exports have been suspended and this has detrimental effects on the company's budget.

The latest attack in the region of Teorama, Norte de Santander Department, resulted in a large oil spill which caused considerable ecological losses—which ECOPETROL technicians are trying to control.

Additional Details on FARC Plan Revealed

PA3001193490 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Jan 90 pp 1A, 10A

[Report by Edgar Tellez]

[Text] The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have launched a strategic plan that will reportedly conclude in 1997 with the seizure of power. The organization intends to create 36 more guerrilla fronts for a total of 80, with 32,000 well-armed men in its ranks.

The "all-out offensive," which is part of the political-military plan, will be duly financed: Blackmail and kidnappings will presumably give the FARC $49 million, meaning 25 billion pesos.

EL TIEMPO had access to the document, which is currently in the hands of high-ranking government officials, and it was carefully analyzed by intelligence organizations.

The large-scale insurrectional plan is called "Bolivarian Campaign For a New Colombia," and it was the result of a FARC plenum which was held in May 1989 at the organization's central camp in Meta Department's mountains.

The annual meeting was attended by the FARC front commanders and members of the Central Staff (EMC), led by Manuel Marulanda Perez, a.k.a. "Tirofijo."

The FARC political and military project was confiscated by the Army in August 1989. Military forces captured, at an unspecified place in Cundinamarca, a guerrilla

member who was carrying in a bag some documents and a cassette with the recording of the talks held at the subversive summit.

According to FARC intentions, the plan must be fully implemented between January 1990 and January 1997. The project is divided into four phases which are divided into 2-year periods.

The strategy orders the development of six basic aspects: The political aspect, which involves the creation of the People's Bolivarian Meeting; the armed aspect, which involves increasing the fronts throughout the country and obtaining war materiel; the financial aspect, which involves obtaining the resources for each front; the educational aspect, which involves establishing a formation program for guerrilla fighters; the psychological aspect, which involves an action against the Armed Forces and civilian population; and the final offensive, with the intention of seizing power.

The document obtained by EL TIEMPO shows that FARC agreed to organize and strengthen the People's Bolivarian Meeting as the initial political step.

The work will be strengthened through the creation of Bolivarian groups and solidarity unions and Bolivarian militias. According to the conditions prevailing in each region, this action will be openly or clandestinely carried out.

Likewise, the organization "will seek a political solution" through the government - CGSB [Simon Bolivar General Coordinating Board] dialogues, so an overall guerrilla war may be the reply to those who reject peace.

The political aspect will be reinforced with studies on the foreign debt (to propose nonpayment), the Bush plan for Latin America and Colombia (to counteract it), and a proposal whereby the Armed Forces generals, the members of the Supreme Court of Justice, the comptroller general, and the prosecutor general will be elected by popular vote.

FARC also intends to censure the M-19 stand because, according to FARC, M-19 violated the political accords reached in the first three summits of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CGSB]. FARC holds Carlos Pizarro Leongomez responsible for this violation and describes him as crazy and a "member of the petit bourgeoisie."

FARC's military goal is an ambitious one. In the first stage, the number of guerrilla fronts will be increased from 44 to 60, each of which will consist of 300 men, for a total of 18,000.

For 1994, in the second phase, the organization expects to have 80 fronts, with 400 men each, for a total of 32,000.

In the third phase, in 1996, 16,000 men would be launched into a mobile guerrilla war in a general offensive.

This program to increase the number of both guerrilla fronts and men will rely on armed support.

The organization intends to purchase 10,000 rifles, 480 machine guns, 1,290 rocket launchers, 480 radio sets, 6 planes, two boats, 10 launches, 100 light guns, and a radio broadcasting station; and hire pilots and ships captains.

The guerrilla organization also plans to construct four landing strips and prepare several guerrilla landing sites.

This plan will cost an estimated 20 billion pesos or $37 million.

The FARC plenum agreed that each front will collect an assigned cash quota, which will be used to buy the war materiel. Consequently, in the first stage the subversive columns will "collect" those $37 million through kidnappings and extortion.

The main targets will be businessmen, owners of large estates, and businessmen from all over the country dealing in oil, gold, emeralds, platinum, and marble.

It has been estimated that the 21 most powerful fronts will be able to collect the required amount.

Each of the remaining 19 fronts will contribute $600,000, for a total of $12 million.

For the training of its combatants and column commanders, the FARC has outlined an instruction model.

A school system was created with a lesson plan or curriculum administered by a smaller organization called the national school. This was in turn subdivided into: political, military, practical, and block sections.

The political area will include classes on economic systems and philosophy. The military area will encompass studies on combat intelligence, guerrilla warfare, military psychology, special troops, and urban combat intelligence. The practical section will be called the mobile school, and will involve implementing theoretical studies. The bloc school will give instruction on firing, explosives, literacy training, communications, guerrilla tactics, and discipline.

General staff courses will be organized by the general staff of the secretariat.

The generalized offensive, the third phase of the plan, consists of the deployment of 16,000 men for a mobile war. Some 16,000 more will go to the central mountains (which the FARC considers to be the most important part of the country and the center of strategic deployment). These fronts will be supported by the Bolivarian militias.

Each front will begin with a force of 200 men and an available reserve of 50 more.

If this offensive fails for lack of popular support, there will be a retreat to organize and carry out the fourth

phase, or second final offensive. It consists of the takeover of military bases, towns, and objectives that are important to the government.

Once the takeover of power is under way, the mission of the columns, mobile companies, and blocs of fronts will be to cause the Army to overextend itself, to wear it down, and demoralize it, which will lead to a paralysis of the country's economic life.

When the fighting phase is under way, the columns and mobile companies will deploy to positions in the central mountains.

In the course of the plan, the FARC General Staff will become the general war headquarters.

If the forces in the mountains become consolidated, and if there is guerrilla warfare throughout the country in combination with the operation of urban networks, a general political strike will be called and a provisional government will be appointed to produce the first revolutionary laws.

Once power has been assumed, the FARC plans call for a plebiscite so the people can choose a new constitution.

This final offensive will include a psychological action so that every time the fronts and blocs of fronts carry out successful actions, an appeal will be made to officers, junior officers, and men "not to defend the oligarchy."

MATERIAL FOR MOBILE FORCES

10,000 rifles and their complements	15 billion pesos
480 machine guns - 1 per company	960 million pesos
1,290 rocket launchers (300,000 pesos each)	576 million pesos 480
radios (1 per company)	240 million pesos
6 airplanes ($150,000 each)	400 million pesos
2 boats and 10 speed boats	1 billion pesos
construction of 4 airports	50 million pesos
organization of landing sites	50 million pesos
100 pieces of light artillery	1 billion pesos
1 radio station, pilots, boat captains, equipment, and international relations	500 million pesos
total	19.776 billion pesos

Paraguay

Bank Head on Need for 'Capable People,' Reform

PY3001170190 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Jan 90 p 11

[Excerpt] Central Bank President Crispiniano Sandoval yesterday admitted that "we have suddenly completely changed our economic model and goals, and this is why we need more capable people." Sandoval said this when asked about the improvisation affecting the public sector because of the lack of capable public employees.

He then said that every effort is being made to improve this situation, and mentioned in this regard the seminars and courses constantly organized for Central Bank experts.

Sandoval then said that there are a large number of talented young people who may be useful in the future but who need intensive training.

When asked what had happened with the 1989-90 plan drawn up by the Technical Planning Secretariat (STP), he said it is being partially implemented by the government, in keeping with the state's financial capability.

Sandoval commented that "an economic plan exists and that it is being partially implemented by the government. Studies are also under way concerning the way to implement economic reform. Under study are short and medium-term mechanisms. Now then, it remains to be seen how far, how, and with what means we should implement this plan." [passage omitted]

Training Requested From Harvard

PY3001172390 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Jan 90 p 11

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Finance Minister Enzo Debernardi yesterday told Radio Nanduti that the Finance Ministry—through professor Richard Malow—has asked Harvard University to offer higher education "at the master's and then the PhD level" to Paraguayan economists.

Debernardi added that his ministry intends to offer an advanced training course for its economists, "especially in modern mathematical methods."

"We asked AID for economic support. This agency contacted Harvard University, which sent Professor Malow to evaluate the Finance Ministry's needs," he added.

Debernardi said that he recommended Malow meet with the upper echelon economists of the Central Bank, the Technical Planning Secretariat, and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and this is what he did."

Debernardi added: "Our country does not have advanced institutions for masters or Phd's in economics. We therefore had to resort to foreign advice, and that is what we did."

Armed Civilians Evict 120 Peasant Families

PY3001165590 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 27 Jan 90 p 17

[Report by Andres Colman Gutierrez]

[Text] It could have been just another piece of news similar to many we hear these days: 120 landless peasant families are forcibly expelled from the land they were occupying in a remote district of San Pedro Department.

Yes, it could have been just another bit of news except for a new and distressing element: This time those conducting the eviction were not soldiers or policemen; they were armed civilians.

The incident occurred on 24 January at approximately 0800. The place is called Curepi-cue, in the jurisdiction of Naranjito, General Resquin District, San Pedro Department. The land is part of 16,000 hectares owned by Heriberto Roder.

Mario Ovelar, one of the peasants involved, told us what happened: "They took us completely by surprise. We did not know how to react when we saw them because they were dressed in civilian clothes. They carried weapons usually used by civilians such as shotguns, revolvers, pistols...We did not see a single rifle or machine gun, which are usually carried by the military."

According to the peasants' report, there were 10 to 15 men in the group. They came in trucks, pickups, and cars. "As soon as they arrived they began shooting into the air to intimidate us. They surrounded us. We did not carry firearms, only our machetes and sickles. They ordered us to throw them to the ground and raise our hands. If anyone said anything or complained he was kicked or hit with the butt of a gun," Lorenzo Correa, another expelled peasant, said.

The peasants could not identify any of their attackers with the exception of a lawyer named Monges and the agriculture engineer who works for the owner of the land.

"It caught our attention that one of the men giving the orders was wearing a camouflage uniform. He was the only one wearing a military uniform, even though he did not appear to be military because his weapons were nonregulation," Lorenzo Correa said.

The peasants were ordered into the trucks and taken to General Resquin's police department. Various peasants were injured during the operation. Mario Ovelar was hit several times and Lorenzo Correa's head was fractured with a pistol. "What was odd was that the police chief took all the prisoners in without objection. He detained us for 12 hours and then released us without giving any explanation," Ovelar said.

The incident in Curepi-cue causes us to wonder. Is this the beginning of a parapolice or paramilitary repression of landless peasants? And if their activity is supported by some authorities, are they aware that this factor only complicates the already complex situation and social tension involving landless people?

The possible creation of groups of armed civilians organized to expel landless peasants from private property was already anticipated with fear by various agrarian organizations some months ago. "This situation seems to confirm what we anticipated, and it is distressing," said Pedro Gamarra, leader of the National Coordinating Board for the Land and Housing Struggle (CNLTV).

"So far peasants have calmly accepted eviction by the military and the police because they respect the authorities. However, these groups of armed civilians might prompt a violent peasant reaction, which in turn could unleash a social explosion. We do not want that to happen. We believe the way to solve the land problem is by answering peasants' demands, not by repressing peasants," Gamarra said.

Peru

Garcia Still To Decide on Attending Drug Summit

PY3101012090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Report on impromptu news conference with President Alan Garcia by unidentified reporters; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia has called for calm and seriousness in the political debates among the presidential candidates. He described one of them as being intellectually immature in view of the constant attacks he makes. The right, Garcia said, must be taught a lesson of maturity and seriousness.

The president said that the first special congressional session will be held 5-6 February to specifically discuss internal border delimitations. He also said that no new Central Bank director will be appointed, which will allow the next administration do so. For the time being, the president added, he cannot either confirm or deny that he will attend the antidrug summit in Colombia because the situation in Panama could change in the remaining 15 days.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr. President, there are still 16 days until the Cartagena summit. Have you made a final decision on whether you will attend or not?

[Garcia] No, I have not yet made a decision because Peruvian foreign policy follows its principles, while the president of the Republic—despite what some people may say—follows his, and these principles are loyal to certain essential concepts.

We are not yet completely sure that the invading country, the United States, is totally willing to or intends to withdraw its soldiers from a small Latin American country. As long as this does not occur, as you must understand, it is despicable and nearly impossible for me to sit down at a table with someone who is abusing a small country with his almighty position. Many things can happen in 15 or 16 days.

I am not saying either yes or no, but I think that things must somehow change for the better to hold a cordial meeting. Under the current circumstances, it is doubtful that the presidents can hold a cordial meeting as long as one of them is placing an atomic bomb and the threat of invasion on the table.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Garcia] Yes, I think that magazine is well informed, because there have been some misunderstandings. As you know, experts from the four countries met in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, to prepare a document. When everything seemed to be ready for signature of the final document, one of the countries proposed some modifications changing the structure of the concept.

Four and a half years ago, the first time I went to the United Nations, I told the United States that this is not a problem of helicopters or bullets. This is a problem of better prices for cocoa, coffee, and annatto seeds. This is a problem with the processing factories in the higher Huallaga Valley area and airlines that transport these products to the United States.

This concept has been accepted after 4 and ½ years; when it was finally about to be put down in the document in Santa Cruz, one of the countries modified it, thus hindering further progress in the negotiations. This subject is now being reviewed, and the summit could be postponed for a few days until we reach full agreement on such an important summit, which was proposed by the Peruvian Presidency.

We must gather at the Cartagena summit with a concrete proposal. It cannot be simply a social gathering. We are not teenagers who are attending the meeting simply because the president of the most important country in the world will be there. We cannot go there as desperate and dazzled youngsters to hold his hand. We must make concrete proposals to obtain funds for Peru, work and honor for the Huallaga Valley peasants, and respect for the Latin American countries, particularly since it is clear that the origin of the problem is in the consumers of the rich countries, especially the United States. [end recording]

International Teleconference Scheduled 7 March

PY3001184890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] FREDEMO [Popular Front] presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa will inaugurate an important international meeting on 7 March. It will be called the Revolution for Freedom.

Distinguished high-level intellectual and professional figures will attend this meeting sponsored by the Peruvian Promotion and Development Association.

(Hugh Thomas), and (Allen Walters), who have held important posts in Margaret Thatcher's administration, are among the figures who will come to Peru.

Polish Solidarity Movement leader Lech Walesa will also participate in the teleconference that will be transmitted from the conference room in Lima directly to Warsaw.

Brazilian President-elect Collor de Mello has congratulated Vargas Llosa on the upcoming event and confirmed that he will participate via telephone.

New Archbishop of Lima Appointed by Pope

PY3001172790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0249 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Summary] Lima, 26 Jan (EFE)—Jesuit Priest Augusto Vargas Alzamora, 67, was installed today as archbishop of Lima and head of the Catholic Church in Peru, a post to which he was appointed by Pope John Paul II.

Terrorists Kill APRA Leader in Ayacucho

PY3001154090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1608 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Ayacucho (Peru), 28 Jan (EFE)—The police have reported that Tomas Evangelista, a leader of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) and director of the Ayacucho Development Corporation, was shot dead by terrorists here today.

The police said that a group of hooded individuals early this morning entered Evangelista's house and, after tying the hands of his wife and five children, took Evangelista out of the house and shot him at least 20 times.

Evangelista, who was 50 years old, had held the most important regional APRA posts for 30 years.

Evangelista's wife told police that before her husband was killed, the hooded men shouted their support for the pro-Maoist Shining Path terrorist group. Anthropologist Abimael Guzman, founder of the Shining Path terrorist organization, was Evangelista's professor at the Huamanga University in Ayacucho.

The National Police have also reported that on 26 January Shining Path terrorists murdered brothers Martiza and John Paolo Puzo Ochoa and their mother Marta Ochoa in the township of Campina, 60 km south of Ayacucho.

Witnesses told the police that the Ochoas were killed because they refused to supply food and lodging to the terrorists.

More than 200 people have died so far this month owing to the armed struggle that the Shining Path terrorists began in 1980 that has already claimed the lives of at least 17,700 people and caused damage of over $16 billion, which is the equivalent to 70 percent of the Peruvian foreign debt.

30 People Reportedly Killed in Junin and Ayacucho

PY3101132990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0044 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Lima, 30 Jan (EFE) It was officially reported here today that in the past 12 hours the political violence in

Peru has claimed the lives of 30 people, among them 18 guerrillas, in the Andean Departments of Junin and Ayacucho.

An Interior Ministry communique reported that on 28 January, 18 "subversive criminals" died in the San Juan de Jatunhuasi zone, in Junin, in the Peruvian central mountain range, during a clash with more than 20 policemen.

The communique said that following the clash the police patrol seized two submachine guns, two shotguns, four homemade bombs, ammunition, and a large quantity of subversive propaganda. The police patrol came from a garrison in (Mazamari), some 30 km from Jatunhuasi.

The communique, however, did not clarify whether the dead guerrillas belonged to the pro-Maoist Shining Path terrorist organization or to the [word indistinct] "Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement" (MRTA). These two terrorist organizations are operating in several zones of Junin Department.

Police sources have reported that Shining Path terrorists killed Hernan Espejo on 29 January. Espejo was a member of the center-rightist Democratic Front [FREDEMO] and councilman of the district of [word indistinct], near Huancayo, 315 km east of Lima.

The police reported that in Ayacucho alleged Shining Path terrorists today entered a house in Las Nazarenas neighborhood, some 10 blocks from the Plaza de Armas. The terrorists took two teachers and three peasants—members of the same family—out of the house and shot them.

The terrorists left notes near the bodies of teachers Carlos Huaman and Luis Toscano in which they charged them with being "traitors to the armed struggle."

The police are also trying to identify the bodies of six people who were apparently tortured and murdered by Shining Path terrorists in the (Pericohuayco) hills, on the outskirts of Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima.

Press sources today reported in Ayacucho that 39 public servants who have been repeatedly threatened by Shining Path terrorists, have submitted their resignations because they fear for their personal safety and that of their relatives.

According to the police the political violence has claimed the lives of 250 people so far this year

A congressional commission reported at the end of 1989 that 17,500 people had been killed in Peru since the terrorist Shining Path organization began its armed struggle in May 1980.

Venezuela

Perez on 'Difficulties' in Debt Renegotiations

PA3101023390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0453 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Caracas, 25 Jan (EFE)—Regarding debt negotiations between the Venezuelan Government and creditor banks, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today said that "some time will definitely pass during which Venezuela will not be able to make principal payments" on its foreign debt. Perez made this statement during a radio message in which he referred to the status of the negotiations with banks on the refinancing of the foreign debt.

Venezuela has a foreign debt of $26.5 billion, of which $19 billion is public debt refinanced in 1987 in an agreement signed with 400 creditor banks. The Venezuelan president reiterated that within the current process to negotiate the debt, Venezuela has the support of the IMF and the World Bank.

Perez said: "We are meeting a lot of resistance and difficulties with international banks" to set the terms for a new agreement." The Venezuelan president termed the reduction in the debt service—of principal as well as interest—as "unavoidable objectives."

The agreement proposed to the banks by Venezuela includes a moratorium on principal payments, the length of which Perez did not specify, and a significant reduction in interest payments.

Talks with the Banks Advisory Committee "have entered the definitive stage. We are not discussing generalities," the Venezuelan president noted. He added that Venezuela will achieve a reduction of its debt, although "we do not know the amount yet." Perez said Venezuela will also receive "fresh funds" to finance internal investment plans.

The president said some international news agency reports have been aimed at "weakening the very firm position" of Venezuela to conclude the foreign debt negotiation in a favorable manner.